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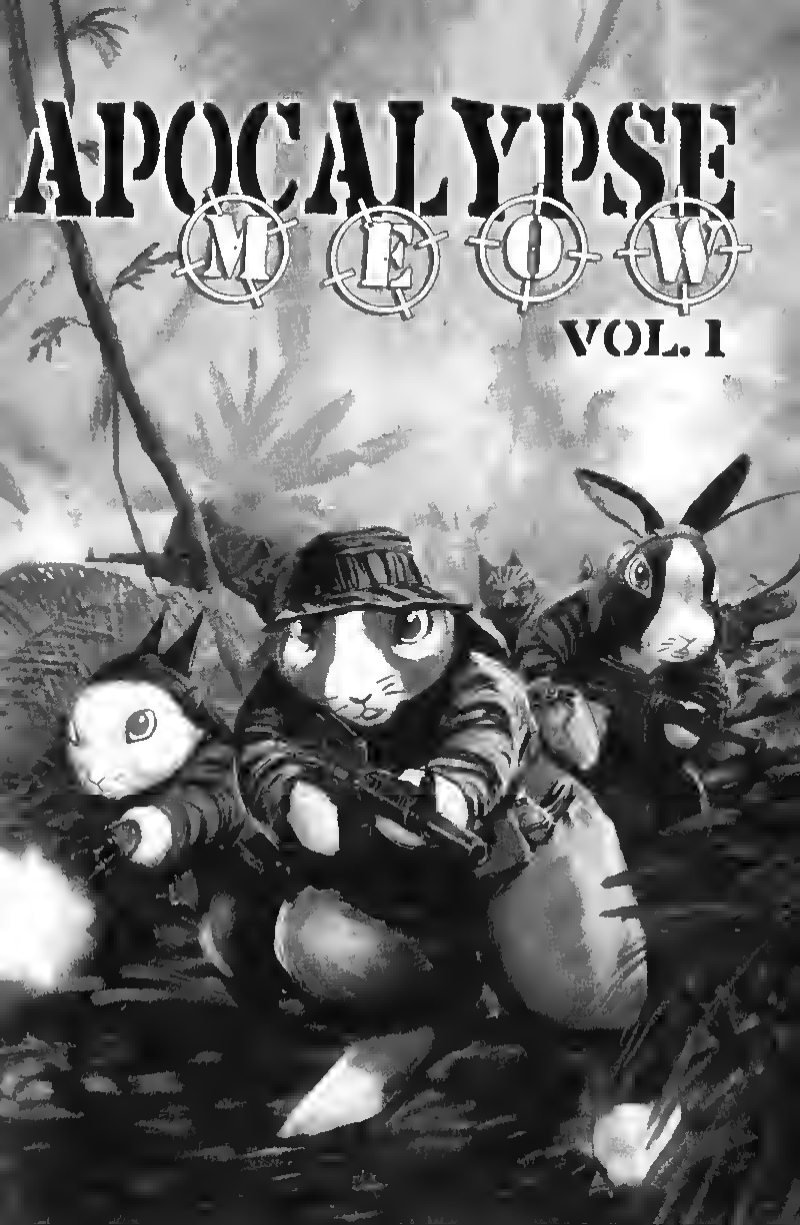
The Vietnam War may be a generation removed from our collective consciousness, but it never looked like this! Revisit the conflict onthropomorphically chronicled through the eyes of three young, brave...rabbits. Join the courageous Special Operations Group—Perky, Rats, and Botoski —as they recon the booby-trapped jungles of Vietnam. Their mission: to engage the feline forces of the treacherous Viet Cong, ond make it out olive! Don't let these onimals fool you— this nightmorish experience is well researched ond carefully crafted around the history of the conflict. This fresh perspective daringly casts a new light on one of the greatest moral quandaries of the 20th Century. *Apocolypse Meow*, Vol. 1—the Vietnom War as you've never seen it before!

APOCALYPSE MEOW

VOL. 1



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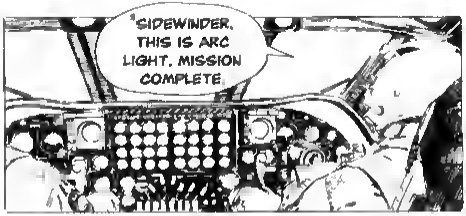
Dog Shit One 112

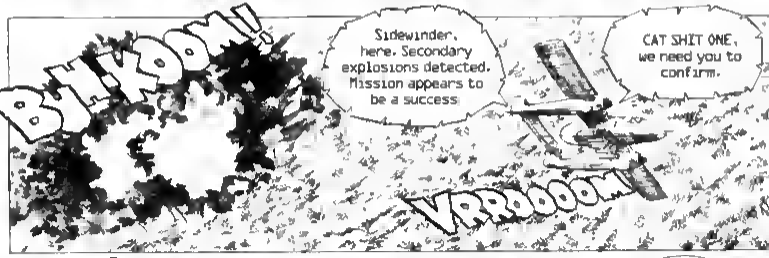
Compliments

Dedicated to Par, White, and Bota.
Also to all other Pars,Whites and Botas.

Editor: Isn t it strange to dedicate a book to a bunch of rabbits?
Kobayashi: It s ok. It s my book.

[1] *Arc Light* — The code name for secret B-52 bombing runs along the Cambodia-Vietnam border. International law publicly forbade the United States from undertaking military action outside of South Vietnam. The North Vietnamese supply route—the Ho Chi Minh Trail—however, ran through Cambodia and Laos, and was thus a target.




BLKOOM!!
Sidewinder, here. Secondary explosions detected. Mission appears to be a success.
CAT SHIT ONE, we need you to confirm.
VRROOOOM!!

[1] *Sidewinder* = The codename for FAC (Forward Air Control) the low flying planes used to identify targets for attack

[2] *BDA* = Bomb Damage Assessment

PA-PAM!
PA-PAM!
PA-PAM
PAM
GET A MOVE ON! THEY'RE COMING!
HER
HER
HER
THEY'RE RIGHT BEHIND US!
MEOW!
Click!
Click!
BAM!
BAM!

TOTOTOK!
FALL BACK!
TOTOTOK!
PAM
SIDEWINDER! WHERE'S THAT CHOPPER?!
Cat Shit One, chopper ETA is 15 minutes.
Head 200 meters south, to the Arc Light bomb crater. We'll cover you.
CLANK
EVERYONE, GET TO THE BOMB CRATER! WE'LL FORM A DEFENSIVE PERIMETER!
PAM
ZIP
ZIP
ZIP
RUN! RUN!
HRR
HR
PAM
ZIP
ZIP
PAM
Meow!
ZIP
KEEP GOING! I'LL CARRY HIM!
HR
HR

P.P.P.

WM
BAOM!
BAOM!
BAO
We are targeting the tree line
YAWM!
YAWM!
HJWAM!
GO! I GOT YOUR BACK!
TOTONK!
KTOWKTOW
TOTOTONK!
GET A MOVE ON, PERKY!
GOTCHA!
THANKS, BUDDY
LIFTOFF!
KTOWKTOWKTOWKTOW
KTOWKTOW
KTOWKTOW
WE DIDN'T KNOW IT, BUT THINGS WERE JUST GETTIN STARTED

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APOCALYPSE MEOW VOL. 1

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY MOTOFUMI KOBAYASHI

APOCALYPSE MEOW

VOL. 1

小林源文

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY

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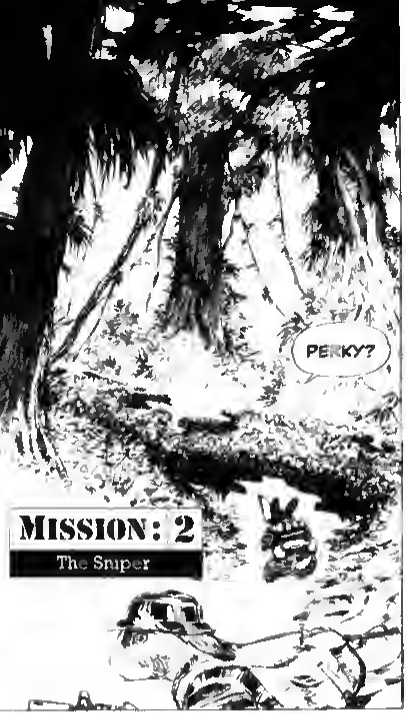
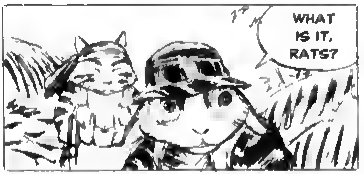
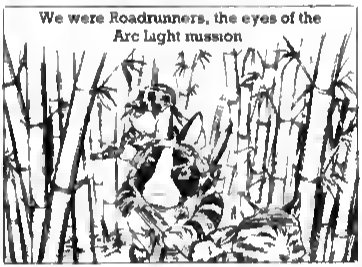


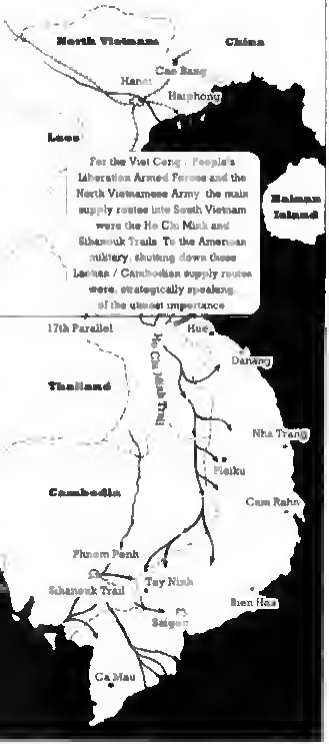
MISSION: 2

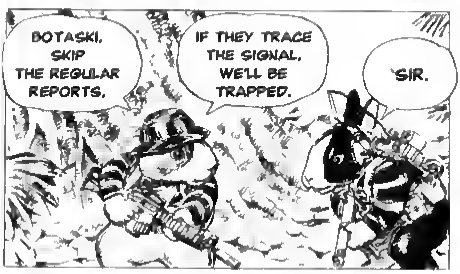
The Sniper





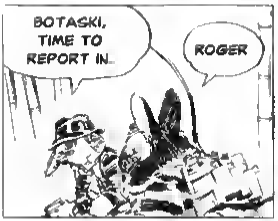
VLOOO





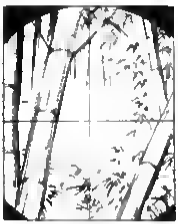
Recon patrol is always a risky proposition. The person who leads the platoon (the point man) plays an important role, but even more important is the soldier bringing up the rear. To prevent the enemy from coming up from behind and wiping out the entire patrol, movement is carried out in a doubling back pattern called a "fishhook."

SEE ANYTHING?
NO, NOTHING.
LET'S GO
FRESH TRACKS...
AND BROKEN LEAVES.


BOTASKI, TIME TO REPORT IN.
ROGER

UH, CAT SHIT ONE CALLING PRETZ-L.

DIE, G.I.!



SHIT!

OVER THERE, EH?

[1] *Gook* = A derogatory term used to refer to all Asians in general and (in modern usage) Vietnamese in particular

M.P.
M.P.
PAPAM
PAPAM
IDIOT! WHY'D YOU SHOOT HIM?!
BLAM
OW!
LOOK AT HIS NECKLACE, PERKY.
HE WAS ONE OF THE ONES WHO WIPED OUT MY FIRST SQUAD.
LET'S MOVE IT, PEOPLE. THIS PLACE IS GONNA BE CRAWLIN' WITH GOOKS.
CAT SHIT ONE CALLING PRETZ-L. COME IN.
This is Pretz-L 2. Good to hear from you again, boys! Get ready to move out!

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MISSION: 3

Search & Rescue Operation

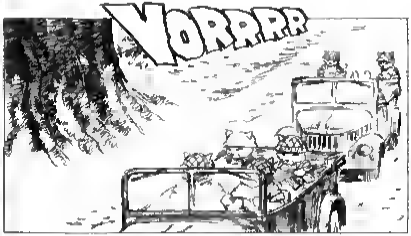
MEN, YOUR FIRST PRIORITY IS TO RESCUE THAT PILOT ANYTHING GOES
ROADRUNNERS, SPLIT INTO THREE TEAMS AND HEAD TO THE NORTH VIETNAM-LAOS BORDER.
THE THING IS, THAT PILOT'S AN EXPERT ON **ELECTRONIC WARFARE** HE'S GOT A LOT OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION
THESE ORDERS COME ALL THE WAY FROM THE **TOP**, SGT PERKINS
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T DO THAT, SIR.
SO IF YOU CAN'T GET HIM OUTTA THERE ..KILL HIM. THAT'S AN ORDER.
YOU BE CAREFUL OUT THERE, PETE
HEY PERKY, DON'T GO STEALIN' MY TEAM'S THUNDER, HUH?
READY! READY, RATS?
KH KH

HERE'S YOUR STOP.
GOT IT.
VUM-K VUM!
YOU THINK THE PILOT'S STILL ALIVE?
HE WENT DOWN JUST YESTERDAY, BUT HIS TRANSCEIVER CUT OFF RIGHT AFTER
DOESN'T SOUND GOOD, PERKY.
C'MON. THEY PUT [1]MIKE FORCE AND [2]AIR STRIKER ON STANDBY
HOW THOUGHTFUL. LET'S DO THIS, PEOPLE!
PIM PIM DOM!

[1] *Mike Force* = From "Mobile str*IKE*" the attack force organized by the US Military among minority tribal people in the highlands It was operated by members of the CIDG (Civilian Irregular Defense Group)

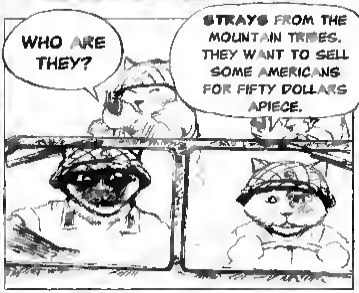
[2] *Air Strik.r* = Term referring to all manner of air support

BOTASKI! GET ON THE HORN TO PRETZ-L.
PRETZ-L, THIS IS CAT SHIT ONE, OVER.
This is Pretz-L 22, reading you loud and clear.
The DIRTY WOLVES are taking some pretty heavy fire.
DIRTY WOLVES? THAT'S PETE'S TEAM. CAN HE MAKE IT OUT?
They've got a positive I.D. on the pilot. He's been captured.
We've gotta give the Wolves some BACKUP. Be out of touch for awhile.
VROOOOM
OWWOOOOOOM
THOSE ARE THE FRONT MEN. THEY'RE COMIN' THIS WAY.


YORRRR

HOLD IT!

FIFTY DOLLAR EACH!


WHO ARE THEY?
STRAYS FROM THE MOUNTAIN TRIBES. THEY WANT TO SELL SOME AMERICANS FOR FIFTY DOLLARS APIECE.

MEOWRR!
MEOW MEOW!

THEY SAY THEY HAVE TWO MORE
TELL THEM TO MAKE IT A HUNDRED FOR ALL THREE.

MEOW!
MEOW MEOW MEOW!
BANG! BANG!
TOTONK!
PAPAPAM! PAPAM! BANG!
TOTOTOTONK!
TOTONK! TOTONK!
MAJOR ANDERSON. LET'S GET YOU HOME!
THANKS FOR COMIN' FOR ME. MY FRONT-SEATER DIDN'T MAKE IT OUT, AND I'VE BUSTED UP MY BACK..

Pretz-L 22 to Cat Shit One. Reading you loud and clear.
VVROOOM
YOU GUYS ARE IN A TRIPLE CANOPY AREA. HEAD TO THE RIDGE, WHERE THE TERRAIN'S THINNER.
I CAN'T BACK YOU GUYS UP IN THERE...
BOTA! CALL PRETZ-L AND REQUEST EVAC.
I'M ON IT.
but don't worry. I'll be right behind you. Oh, and the Dirty Wolves made it out.
ROGER THAT. WE'LL BE IN TOUCH.
LET'S TAKE A BREATHER. BUT KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN
HR
HR
WANT ME TO LEAD, PERKY?
NO, I'M GOOD.
HOW ARE YOU, MAJOR? YOU WANT SOME WATER?
THANKS, I... I CAN'T FEEL MY LEGS.
HR
HR
WE'LL BE GETTING YOU OUT OF HERE SOON ENOUGH.

[1] *Triple Canopy* - Tropical jungles where there are three thick overlapping layers of trees

Pretz-L to Cat Shit One. I'm about two klicks north of you.
There's somethin' moving down there... It's the gooks!
PAPAPAM! PAPAM! PAM!
VRROOOOM
They're shooting—small weapons fire.
This is Pretz-L. There's a whole bunch of enemy soldiers right under me.
SHIT! I DID NOT WANT TO HEAR THAT LET'S MOVE!
WE'RE ALMOST TO THE RIDGE, PERKY.
RATS! STALL 'EM!
ROGER! CHICO, YOU'RE WITH ME.
WHERE'S THAT BACKUP, BOTASKI?
PRETZ-L, WHAT'S THE STATUS ON OUR BACKUP?
VRROOOOM
[2]Fast Mover had to head back to base to reload. Hang in there, OK?
Oh, and you've got GOOKS on the east side of the ridge.
SHIT. I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED.
TOSS THE [3]WILLY PETE.
MEOW.
MEOW!
ROGER.

[2] *Fast Mover* = A high speed aircraft that provides air support dropping its payload on enemy forces below

[3] *Willy Pete* = M 34 white-phosphorous grenade an anti personnel device also used for signaling

?
MEOW?
POM POM
MEOWRR!
HERE WE GO.
PAPAM PAPAM
LOOK, YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH. JUST LEAVE ME HERE!
PAM
FORGET IT, MAJOR LET'S GO.
HRR PAPAPAM HRR
GET 'EM!
PAPAPAPAM
ZIP!
ZIP!
ZIP! ZIP!
DAMN!

RED SMOKE AWAY!
This is Pretz-L, [4]red smoke confirmed.
Roger. Get your heads down, boys.
VRROOOOM!
PRETZ-L, WE HAVE RED SMOKE!
REPEAT, RED SMOKE!
IT'S THE NORTH SIDE OF THE RIDGE LAY IN A SWEEPING FIRE, 100 METERS.
VVRRROOOM!
ZIP! ZIP! ZIP! ZIP! ZIP! ZIP!

[4] *Red smoke* = Red smoke grenades were used to mark enemy targets

PAM!
SL
BAKOW!
PAPAM!
ZIP!
SHIT!
DAMMIT!
WHERE THE HELL'S THAT BACKUP?!
ZIP!
TOTOTONK!
TONK!
BOM!
PAPAM!
BANG!
PERKY! I CAN'T TAKE IT, MAN!
C'MON, GOOKS! I'LL SEND YOU ALL TO HELL!
Pretz-L to Cat Shit One. Watch out, Fast Mover is comin' in.
QUWAOM!
YOU STUPID SON OF A BITCH! DON'T YOU GIVE UP ON ME!
TOTONK!
WHAT?!

BUH-KOOM!
YEEOUCH!
WE'RE GONNA GET WASTED BY OUR OWN GUYS!
Cat Shit One, stand by for pickup.
LOOK!
HM! HM!
THANK YOU... SERGEANT PERKINS THIS IS MY FAMILY.
THAT'S A FINE-LOOKIN' BUNCH, MAJOR.
HE'S GONE.

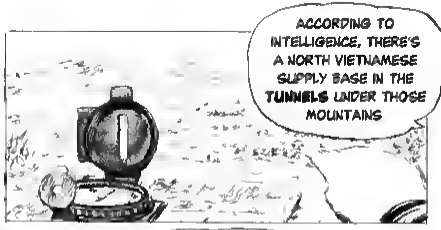
MISSION: 4

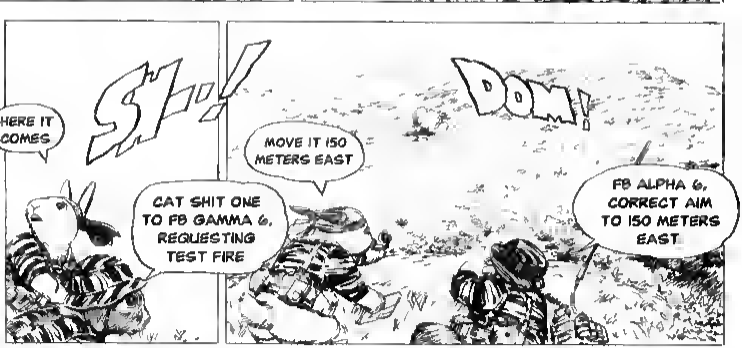
FO (Forward Observer)

PUSH!
YOU WANT ONE?
THANKS, RATS. WHERE'D YOU GET THESE?
SORRY, THAT'S CLASSIFIED
I'LL DRINK TO THAT.
WHAT'S WITH YOU? I ONLY WANT ONE
YOU'RE ALWAYS FREELOADING, BOTA.
HEY RATS, GIMME ONE.
I THOUGHT WE WERE BUDDIES.
C'MON, GIVE HIM ONE HIS FAMILY'S GOING THROUGH A ROUGH TIME
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE ME SOME MONEY, ASSWIPE?
SERGEANT PERKINS, REPORT TO THE WAR ROOM AT 2030.
ROGER
I HOPE THEY GIVE US SOMETHING EASY...
HERE. DRINK UP.

HEY PERKY, THIS IS JUST 'FO DUTY, RIGHT?
RIGHT. THAT'S WHY IT'S ONLY US.
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE TWO MORE DAYS R&R
THEY'RE MOVIN' EVERYONE OUT. SHIT HAPPENS
WE'VE STILL GOT SOME TIME LET'S EAT.
ROGER THAT!
RICE FLAVORED HOW ABOUT YOURS?
CARROT. TASTES LIKE HELL.
HA HA HA...

'FO - Forward Observer a person who coordinates the placement of direct (or indirect) fire upon a specific target




HERE IT COMES
SHU!
CAT SHIT ONE TO FB GAMMA 6, REQUESTING TEST FIRE
MOVE IT 150 METERS EAST
DOM!
FB ALPHA 6, CORRECT AIM TO 150 METERS EAST

[2] *Clean* = Free of evidence of one s passage

[3] *FB* - Firebase a base that provides artillery support

[4] *WP* = White Phosphorous The smoke produced by WP shells is used for signaling/obscuring WP also makes an effective anti personnel explosive

IT'S OFF 100 METERS TO THE NORTH, PERKY.
THIS IS CAT SHIT ONE. FB BETA 6, TEST FIRE.
This is FB Gamma. Firing.
BAM!
SH-! SH!
This is FB Gamma. Impact...now!
DOM!
This is FB Gamma. Impact...now!
BOM!
SH-!
UMMM...
THIS ONE'S OFF BY 200 METERS
DOM!
This is FB Beta. Impact...
now!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WHAT.
DOOMM...
CEASE FIRE! CEASE FIRE!
DAMMIT!
THIS IS CAT SHIT ONE. LET'S TRY IT AGAIN.
BWEHEHEH!
HOW MANY TOURS'VE YOU DONE, RATS?
TWO. PERKY'S DONE THREE.
SH!
AREN'T YOU SCARED?
HMPH. NOT EVERYONE IN THE 'NAM LOOKS FORWARD TO BEIN' A *SHORT-TIMER. SOME OF 'EM WANNA BE *LIFERS.
SO, PERKY'S GOIN' THE OFFICER ROUTE?
THIS IS CAT SHIT ONE- FIRE!
DOM!
SH-! DOM!

Short-timer = A soldier nearing the end of his tour of duty

Lifer = A career military man

BAM! BAM! BAM! BAM!
SH! SH!
This is FB Alpha. Impact...now!
This is FB Beta. Impact...now!
This is FB Gamma. Impact...now!
THIS IS CAT SHIT ONE EXTEND RANGE BY ANOTHER HUNDRED METERS
DOM! DOM! DOM! ZYNO! ZYNO!
SH!
INCOMING!
SH!
BAKOM!
DOM! DOM! DOM! ZYNO! ZYNO!

BU-KOOM!!
BINGO!
THE MOUNTAIN IS GONE WE'VE GOT SOME SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS HERE, TOO. MUST'VE HIT AN AMMO DUMP.
PERKY! IT'S THE GOOKS!
OH, SHIT.
MEOW
MEOW!

The countries currently known as Vietnam Laos and Cambodia were colonized by the French in the mid-19th century as a French protectorate and were collectively known as French Indochina. The name "Indochina" comes from the fact that the region lies approximately between India and China. Colonial rule in this region was quite strict as it was in the other French colonies. (Incidentally the well-known Michelin tire company was originally a French Indochinese industry that prospered thanks to the local rubber plantations.)

Once World War II began Japan (allied with Germany) expanded its rule in China. When Germany invaded France in September of 1940 Japan led its troops into French Indochina to expand their occupational territory. This expansion led to the Pacific War which was fought from December 1941 to August 1945.

The defeat of Japan Germany and Italy brought an end to WWII. France attempted to reestablish colonial rule in the region which prompted the formation of the League for the Independence of Vietnam (also known as the "Vietminh") in 1941. On September 2nd 1945 Vietminh leader Ho Chi Minh declared his country the Independent Democratic Republic of Vietnam." A few years later the Vietminh fought against the French Colonial Army in the Indochina War (December 1946 to July 1954). Backed by the OSS (the Office of Strategic Services which later became the CIA) Ho Chi Minh's Vietminh fought against Japan during WWII and afterwards—backed by China and the Soviet Union—fought France for independence.

The world after the end of WWII was divided into two ideologies the communist camp made up of the Soviet Union (currently the Russian Federation) Eastern Europe and China and the capitalist camp consisting of the United States of America and Western Europe. The resulting "cold war" between these two camps spread to various second and third world countries escalating to the point that wars were fought in the colonies of Asia and Africa in the name of unification and colonial independence.

It was during this timeframe on the world political map that the rift between the East and West would widen spurred on by the spread of Communism in the Eastern European countries the closure of Berlin and the Chinese Revolution. In 1949 the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was established to contain the spread of Communism.

The Korean War broke out in 1950 when North Korea—backed by the Soviet Union and later China—invaded the South in the name of liberation. This proxy war lasted for three years until the signing of the Armistice Agreement which more than fifty years later continues to remain in effect. Meanwhile following its defeat in the Pacific War Japan had come under the rule of the US Occupation Force which led to the drafting of Japan's "Peace Constitution" that forever renounced war. During the time of the Korean War Japan became a base to supply troops and goods to the US military. Under the direction of the Occupational government Japan formed the Police Reserve Force which would later become the Self Defense Forces.

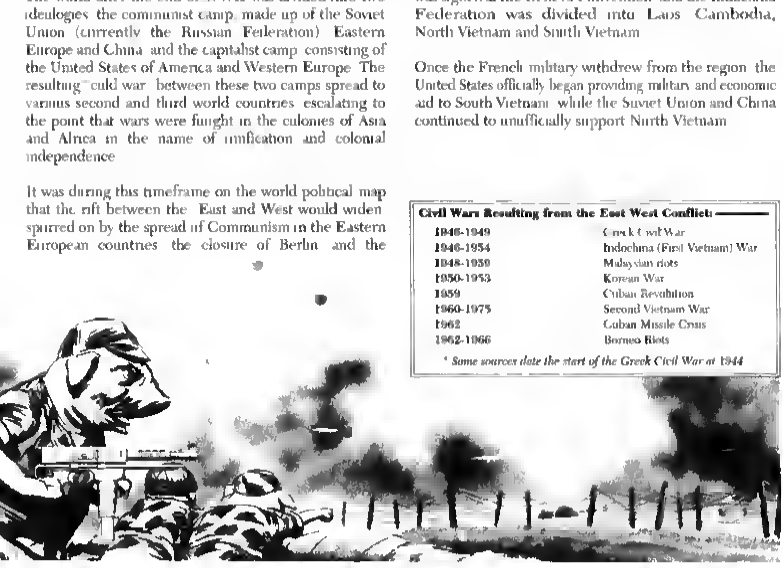
In those days anti-Communism sentiment in the West was at its peak and political, military and economic aid to fight Communism was all strengthened. War continued to rage in Indochina and in 1950 the US began providing military support to the French dispatching a group of military advisors to Indochina. After the French were dealt a crushing blow at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954 a cease-fire agreement was signed at the Geneva Convention and the Indochina Federation was divided into Laos Cambodia, North Vietnam and South Vietnam.

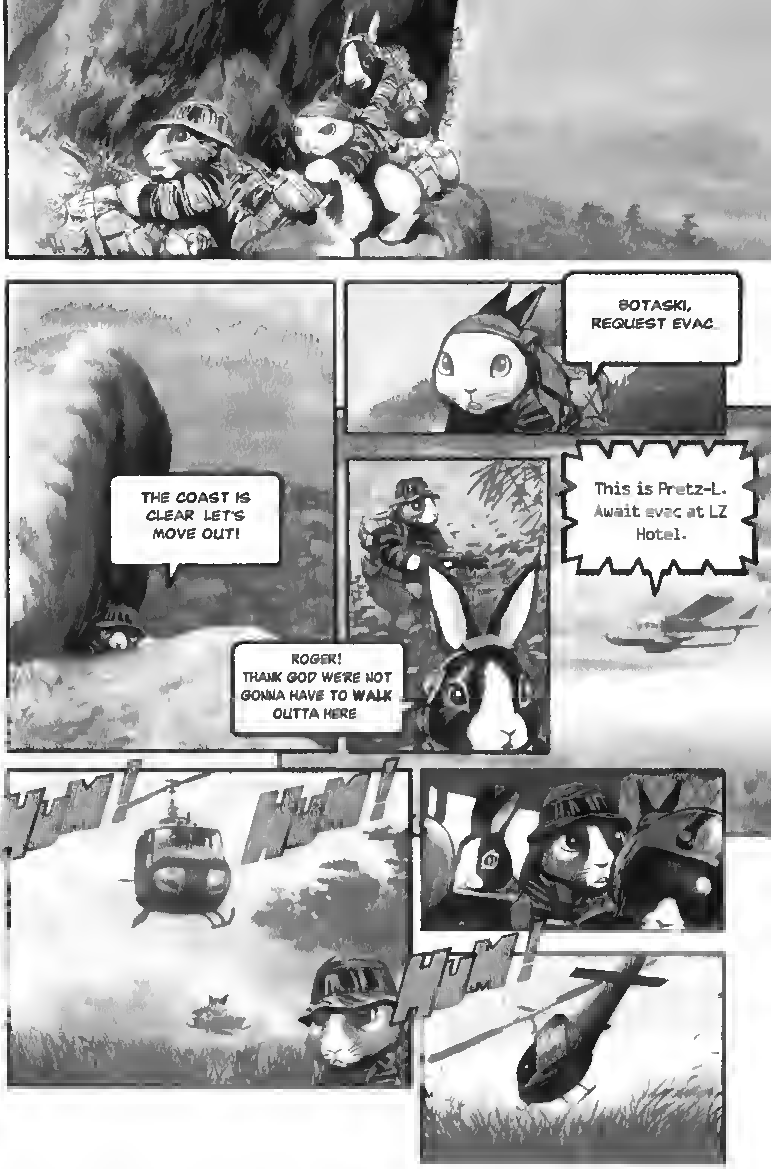
Once the French military withdrew from the region the United States officially began providing military and economic aid to South Vietnam while the Soviet Union and China continued to unofficially support North Vietnam.

Civil Wars Resulting from the East-West Conflict:

1946-1949	Greek Civil War
1946-1954	Indochina (First Vietnam) War
1948-1950	Malaysian riots
1950-1953	Korean War
1959	Cuban Revolution
1960-1975	Second Vietnam War
1962	Cuban Missile Crisis
1962-1966	Borneo Riots

* *Some sources date the start of the Greek Civil War at 1944*




BOTASKI, REQUEST EVAC.
THE COAST IS CLEAR. LET'S MOVE OUT!
This is Pretz-L. Await evac at LZ Hotel.
ROGER! THANK GOD WE'RE NOT GONNA HAVE TO WALK OUTTA HERE
HUM!
HUM!
HUM!

BAHUM!
BAKOM!
WE'RE GOIN' DOWN!
OH, JESUS...
AUGH!
This is Pretz-L. There are no signs of survivors from Cat Shit One.

Special Forces Base
CAT SHIT ONE HAS GONE MISSING
DAMN. OPERATION ARC LIGHT IS SCHEDULED TO BOMB THAT ENTIRE AREA
MEOW. MEOW! "PERKY." "BOTA."
MEOW!
HEY! THE 'YARDS ARE STEALIN' IT!
RADIO'S BUSTED.
YEAH. AT LEAST MY BALLS'RE ALRIGHT.
DAMMIT! IS EVERYONE OK?
WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE. ARC LIGHT IS GONNA GET UNDERWAY.

'Yard – A corruption of Montagnard (French "mountain people") 29
the mountain tribes trained by U.S. special forces

RATS!
!
TOTONK!
PAPAM
PAPAM

RUN!
ROGER!
TOTOWK!
BOTASKI, LOSE THE RADIO
NO WAY!
IT'S BUSTED, SO DROP IT!
WITHOUT THIS, I CAN'T DO ANYTHING I'M JUST A BURDEN...
GIVE IT HERE I'LL HANG ONTO IT.
TO-TO-NK!
PAPAM PAPAM

TOTO NK!
TOTO NK!
BAOM!
C'MON, MOVE IT!
MEOWRR!
QUAAA

ВАКОМ!
ZUVO!
DDM
ZUVO!
DDM
ВАКОМ!

WE...
WE MADE IT!
DIE, G.I.!
DOM DOM DOM DOM DOM
MEOW!
HERE, BOTASKI. TAKE THE PRICK BACK.

With the Indochina War (1946-1954) the United States began to actively involve itself in the region. In 1950 the US began to provide weapons for the French military as well as dispatch teams of its own military advisors. The 77th Special Forces Group (Provisional) was sent to South Vietnam in 1953, and Laos in 1954. As a result of the Geneva Accords Indochina was divided into the independent regions of Laos Cambodia, and North and South Vietnam. Once the French had withdrawn its military the United States officially embarked on programs of military and economic aid to South Vietnam.

The main objective of the Green Berets (US Army Special Forces) was to train for those states friendly to the US both regular standing armies and detachments knowledgeable in unconventional warfare. In 1961 the 5th Special Forces Group was activated at Fort Bragg. The Group would go on to conduct all special forces activities in Vietnam including the overseeing of the CIDG (Civilian Irregular Defense Groups) Program which sought to form a paramilitary force from several of the region's minority groups. The program was a success and by the end of 1963 the number of CIDG members loyal to the Special Forces numbered 18,000 or 120 companies of 150 "Strikers" each. Under the command of SF (Special Forces) A Teams the CIDG conducted border patrols and fought against the National Liberation Front and the North Vietnamese Army.

In those days US Special Forces troops were not necessarily the "best of the best." With a paratrooper qualification more than two years of military service and a rank above Corporal one could become a green beret without any additional selective training. Charlie Beckwith founder of the Army's elite Delta Force counter-terrorist unit is credited with developing the SF into experts in unconventional warfare.

In 1962 Beckwith was sent to England as a participant in an exchange program between the US Special Forces and the British SAS (Special Air Service). He remained there for a year training under realistic fighting conditions alongside the SAS.

Beckwith became involved with the Delta Project in June of 1965 when he received the order to command Detachment B-52 of the 5th Special Forces in Nha Trang South Vietnam—his weed out process left just seven of the original 30 members of B Team remaining. The next day he sent out a memo to 90 Special Forces camps located all over South Vietnam with the intent of reorganizing Detachment B-52. Written on the memo was the message *Wanted Volunteers for Project Delta. Will guarantee you a medal a body bag or both.* As prerequisites applicants were required to have been in Vietnam for more than six months have a rank higher than sergeant and possess an infantry combat medal—in other words applicants needed to have actual combat experience. The next day brought with it a throng of applicants and he is said to have had a hard time turning them down. Next Beckwith built a training center on the jungle of an uninhabited island across from Nha Trang where the 5th Special Forces Group Headquarters was located. The center was a scaled-down version of the SAS's Select Training Course and there candidates were subjected to a battery of tests such as physical fitness map interpretation rifle shooting, and the ability to execute simple and clear orders. Scores of candidates dropped out of the program but finally Detachment B-52 ended up with 40 members. This number would later grow to 100 indicating that the Special Forces teams of those days were far from the small elite teams that we see today.

"Project Delta" was a cover name assigned it by the United States Military—the Project's true objective was to undertake special recon missions in cooperation with South Vietnam's own Special Forces the LLDB (Luc Luong Dac Biet). This cooperative effort never really succeeded however and so US Special Forces instead worked with volunteers (who came to be called "Yards") from among the CIDG Strikers to create special reconnaissance teams. Called "Roadrunners" these teams consisted on paper of two US Special Forces members and four CIDG Strikers. In actual combat however teams were often made up of four SF members and six CIDG Strikers (who were furnished with Viet Cong issue equipment and clothing).

The secret missions acted as the eyes and ears of the United States military with Roadrunners infiltrating enemy territory for extended periods of time to obtain tactical information. The real objective of the missions however was to scout out the enemy's supply route—the Ho Chi Minh Trail—which extended past Vietnam's border into Laos and Cambodia.

The success of Project Delta led to the creation of Projects Sigma Gamma and Omega. This prompted the US Infantry Divisions/Brigades to want special recon teams of their own and the training course that Beckwith's B-52 Deltas employed in Nha Trang was used as-is for the Recondo School for LRRP (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol) training.

Up until Beckwith was injured and forced to leave Vietnam he worked hard to ensure that B-52 Delta could operate as independently as possible. They had at their disposal a rifle squadron answering directly to them (by 1970 there were 1,200 CIDG Strikers under B-52 Delta) their own helicopters (the 281st Assault Helicopter Company) and several FAC (Forward Air Controllers) who aided ground troops through the use of low speed planes such as the OV-10s as well as calling in fighter bombers should enemy activity require an air strike). This independent structure which Beckwith learned of during his time with the SAS became the basic model for US Special Forces.

Biography

Born: 1928 - Atlanta, Georgia. Graduated university, 1952, joined US Army. Sent to British SAS as colonel 1962, recognized importance of Special Ops. Involved in Project Delta (Vietnam 1965); survived shot to abdomen and returned to US (1966). Assumed command of the Ranger Training Course; returned to Vietnam - Led Delta Counter-terrorist Unit after the War. Retired from Army in 1981. Reviewed security plan of Los Angeles Olympic Games (1984).

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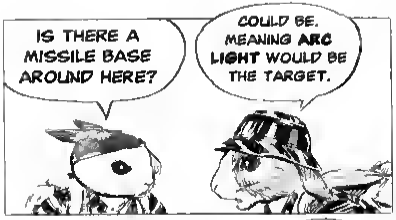
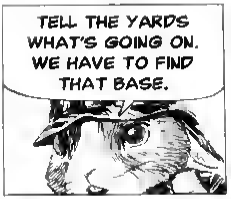
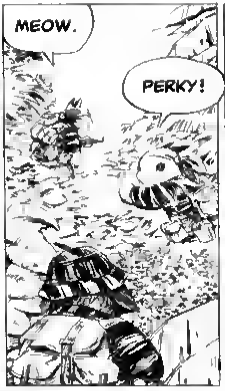
MISSION: 5
SA-2 Guideline
BINGO! HEAVY GUNS!
THE NORTH IS GETTIN' READY TO ATTACK.
VORRR
RATS, LOOK.
THEY'RE HAULING A TOILET ..OR A MESS TRUCK
BOTH WRONG IT'S AN 1SA-2 GUIDELINE, A HIGH-ALTITUDE SAM SYSTEM.
RADAR-GUIDED AND SOVIET-MADE.

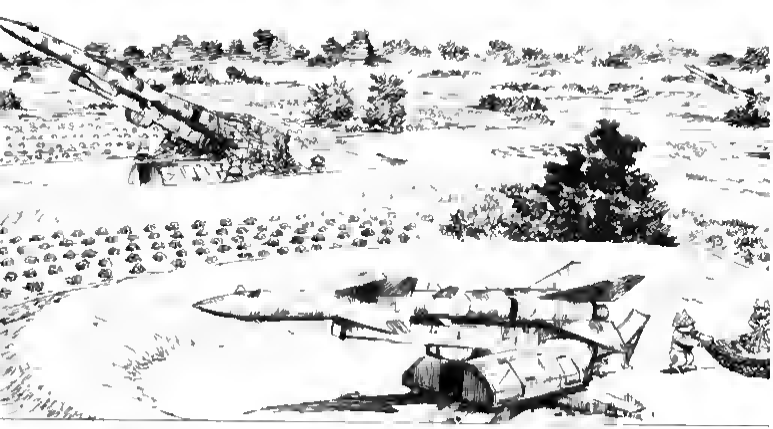
[1] *SA 2 Guideline* A Radar-guided surface to-air missile (SAM) system It had a 5% kill rate which dropped to just 1% against American aircraft

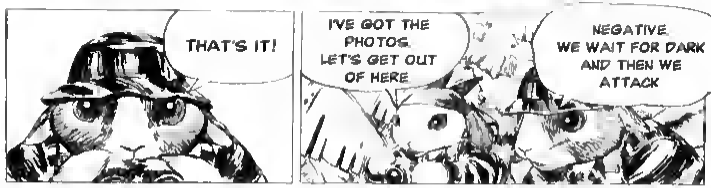

IS THERE A MISSILE BASE AROUND HERE?
COULD BE. MEANING ARC LIGHT WOULD BE THE TARGET.

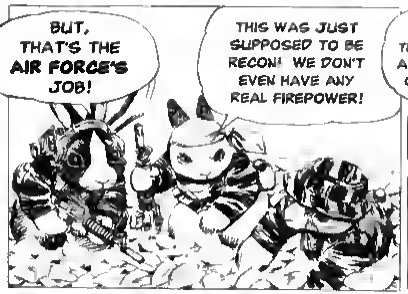
MEOW!
MEOW!
SHOULDN'T WE INFORM HQ?
FORGET IT. THE GOOKS'LL TRACE THE SIGNAL.

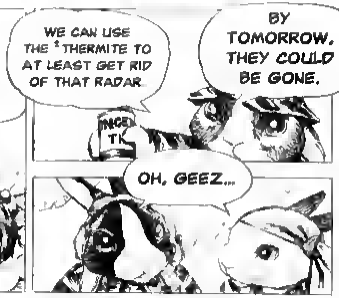

TELL THE YARDS WHAT'S GOING ON. WE HAVE TO FIND THAT BASE.
ROGER.

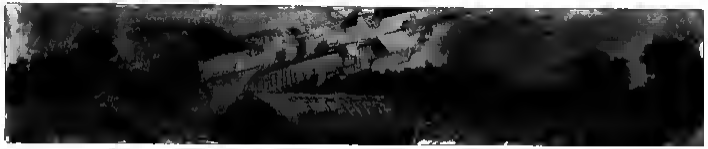

MEOW.
PERKY!



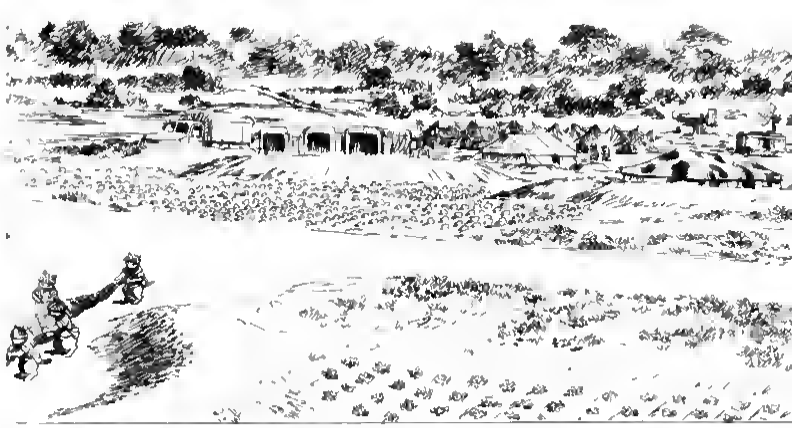


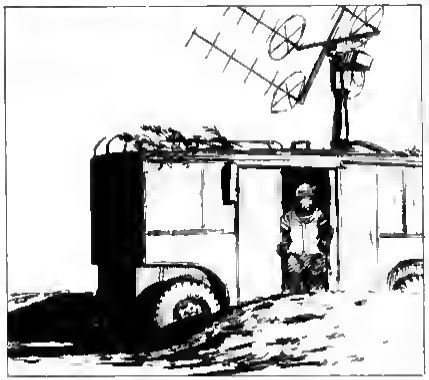






[8] *Thermite* – AN-M14 incendiary (thermite) grenade. The main ingredient is aluminium powder which burns to produce 3-4 000 degree heat. While the AN-M14 could destroy armaments and equipment its extreme volatility (coupled with a mere four second delay) meant it was generally reserved for use by the lower ranks.





TOTOTONK!
THERMITE!
SCUM!
BAOM!
TOTOTONK!
TOTONK!
PAPAM
Americans!
PAM
CHICO! LET'S MOVE IT!

[3] *Russian* — The former Soviet Union sent many technicians/military advisors to North Vietnam.

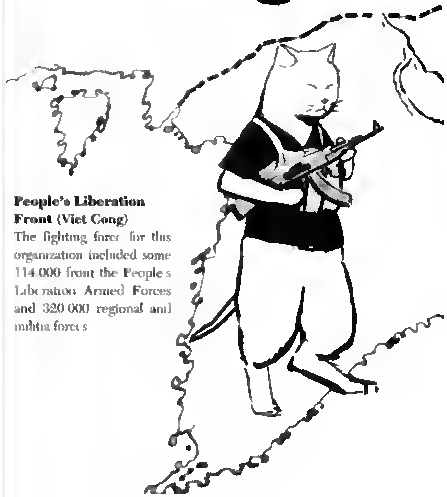
The United States became officially involved in the region in 1961, with the arrival of one of its Marine forces. The U.S. also requested help from their allies to help combat the Communist powers—below are the combined countries followed by the number of troops they contributed

United States	543,000
South Korea	51,800
Thailand	11,570
Australia	7,670
Philippines	2,200
New Zealand	500
Republic of China (Taiwan)	30

These countries were known as the FWMAF (Free World Military Assistance Forces), and together, they comprised the most powerful military presence during the 1963-1969 period. The U.S., Australia and South Korea were the only countries to engage in actual combat, and of these it was the Koreans that the Viet Cong most feared. Additionally the First Australian Task Force—which included Australian SAS squadrons—was considered superior to its U.S. Special Forces equivalent.

Soviet Military Advisor
Beginning in 1946, The Soviet Union sent some 3,800 military advisors to the region. The Soviets mainly gave instruction in specialized areas such as radar systems and surface-to-air missiles

Chinese Military Advisor
The so-called "voluntary army" sent some 150,000 soldiers and approximately 54,000 advisors who instructed mainly in tactical matters and the use of anti-air craft guns



People's Liberation Front (Viet Cong)
The fighting force for this organization included some 114,000 front the People's Liberation Armed Forces and 320,000 regional and militia forces

North Vietnamese Army (NVA)
516,000 strong, with 60,000 troops in Laos 50,000 in Cambodia and 145,000 in South Vietnam. Besides these were another 50,000 armed security forces, 200,000 local military and two million civilian soldiers

U.S. Army
In Vietnam there were two Marine Divisions, one amphibious assault group and three Air Force squadrons. The combined strength of these was 180,000 soldiers.

Republic of Korea Army (ROKA)
Fighting divisions dispatched into Vietnam included Tiger Division, White Horse Division and Blue Dragon Marine Brigade. The number of these was some 51,900

South Vietnam

Saigon

Mekong Delta

Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN)
A fighting force numbering about 1 million. Of these, some 380,000 were members of the standing army, 480,000 were local military and 200,000 were paramilitary

Prime Minister (later Vice President) of South Vietnam, Nguyen Cao Ky

MACV (Military Assistance Command, Vietnam) General Westmoreland

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MISSION: 6
Year of the Monkey (Part 1) – Assault on the Firebase
YOUR REPORT HAS MADE INTEL VERY HAPPY, PERKINS.
'COURSE, NOW THE CIA'S ASKING IF YOU SAW SOME EASTERN BLOC MILITARY ADVISER THERE
NOSSIR, I DIDN'T.
AND I'D LIKE TO REQUEST SOME 'R&R.
WELL, THE VC ARE FOLLOWING THE 'TET TRUCE, TOO .. SURE YOU AND YOUR MEN'VE EARNED IT.
REPORT TO HQ TOMORROW MORNING YOU'LL GET YOUR WEEKEND PASS.
GO HAVE FUN, SERGEANT.
THANK YOU, SIR.
HUH? NO SHIT!
LET'S GET RIPPED!
OH, YEAH.
YOU TOO, BOTASKI. DRINK UP.
HERE'S TO THE GOOK NEW YEAR!
CHEERS!

'R&R = Rest & Relaxation. During this weeklong period single men would go to Thailand or the Philippines while married soldiers would head to Hawaii to meet their wives.

PAM PAK POM
THE HICKS OUT HERE SURE LOVE THEIR FIREWORKS!
AND SOON ENOUGH, WE'LL BE IN THAILAND!
HEY, IT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE!
NAAH, I'M GOIN' TO HAWAII TO MEET THE WIFE.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, PERKY, DON'T BREAK THE BED!
SHIT, IT'S BEEN SIX MONTHS!
SCREW SUNBATHING!
BWAHAHA!
DON'T
PLAYTIME'S OVER

[a] *Tet* – The Vietnamese Lunar New Year. A three day truce (Jan 29-31st) had been declared but North Vietnam broke the ceasefire on January 30th 1968. By the Chinese calendar, the year of that attack (the Tet Offensive) was the Year of the Monkey.

[3] *Green Eye* – Slang term for the Starlight Scope, an early passive night vision device
[4] CP – Command Post

THE GOOKS ARE ATTACKING THE NORTH FLANK.
THEY'RE LOOKIN' FOR A WAY IN.
KEEP YOUR EYES FRONT, BOYS.
IT'S SO QUIET... CHARLIE MUST'VE GONE HOME.
NO THEY'RE HERE.
GOOKS!
SIX OF 'EM, 180 METERS OUT! THEY'RE COMIN' TOWARDS THE OUTER WIRE
[3]COMBAT ENGINEERS THEY'RE TRYING TO GET PAST THE WIRE!
WHEN THEY GET TO 150, YOU TAKE 'EM OUT I'LL DETONATE THE [4]CLAYMORES.
ROGER!

[3] *Combat engineers* ~ Those chosen by either the VC (the Viet Cong, aka "Charlie") or the North Vietnamese to go on suicide missions. Selection was via random lottery.

[4] *Claymore* = M18A1 anti-personnel landmines

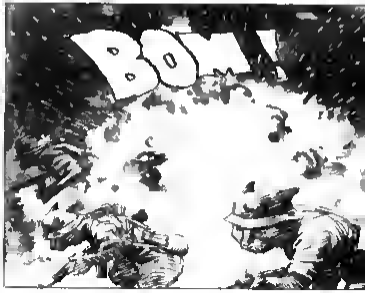
TONK!
TONK!
Click
Click
Click
BAKOM!
BAKOM!
BAKOM!
HEH.
GOT 'EM.
BAM!
BAM!
SHEEEE
BAOM!
BAOM!

[RPG = Rocket Propelled Grenade. The RPG-2 was the Communist's main anti-tank rocket, but it was also used against bunkers and personnel.

Vietnam vector Charge!

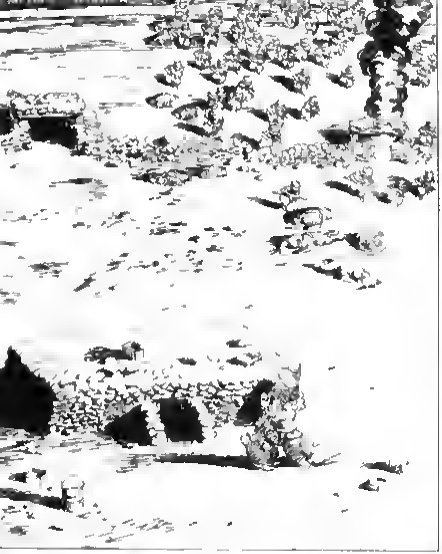
[3] A Vietnamese cry/yelp

[3] A kind of rallying cry to try one's hardest



PAPAM!
MEOWRR!
TOTONK!
PAPAM
DOM
PAPAM
IT'S NO GOOD, PERKY.
FALL BACK! I'LL COVER YOU!
TOTONK!
PAPAM!
ZZIP
CP! CP! AREA 3 IS BREACHED!

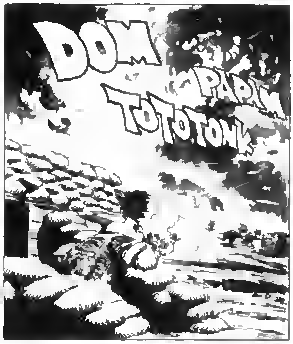
HANG IN THERE, SGT. PERKINS
THEY'VE BROKEN THROUGH! REQUESTING AIR SUPPORT!
SORRY, SIR. WE'RE UNDER ATTACK HERE, TOO!
DOM
PAPPAM!!
TOTOTOTOTOTOTOTONK!
BAM!!
AARGH!
PERKY!
TOTOTOK!

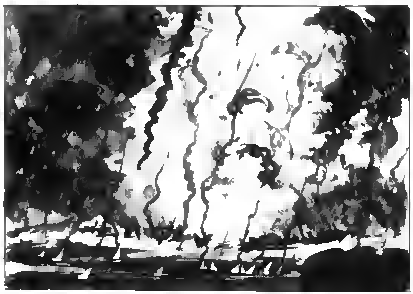


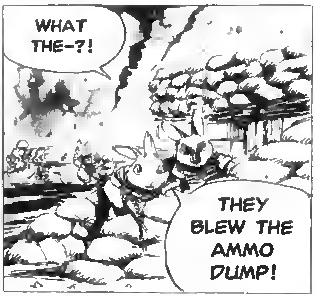
BOTA!
GET IN THERE!

SEAL UP THE ENTRANCE!

KTOWKTOWKTOW
KTOWKTOWKTOW
ZIP
PAPAM
PAPAM
BAOM
TOTOTOK
TOK'S
BABAM
BABAM

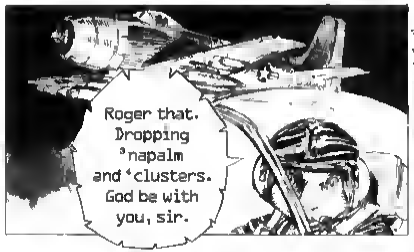






[1] NVA – North Vietnamese Army

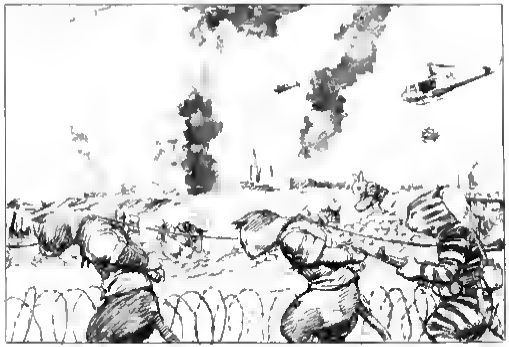
[8] *Đế Quốc Mỹ* = Vietnamese for "American imperialist"



[3] *Napalm* – An incendiary mixture of gasoline and thickening agent(s) used in fire bombs and flame throwers
[4] *Clusters* – Cluster bombs: anti-personnel devices that release explosive fragments over a wide area

DOM
BA-GOM
BT-TOOM!!

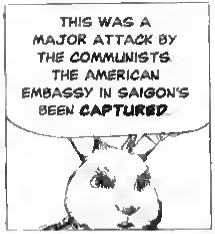
WE'RE DONE FOR OH GOD...

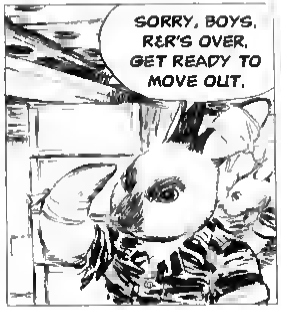


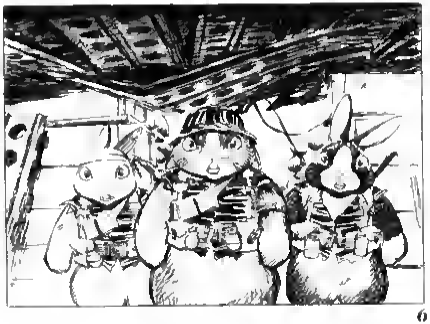
IT'S SO BRIGHT.

BA-
BA-KOM
BI-OM
BOM
BI-OM

PERKINS! SO, YOU MADE IT.


THIS WAS A MAJOR ATTACK BY THE COMMUNISTS. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN SAIGON'S BEEN CAPTURED


SORRY, BOYS. R&R'S OVER. GET READY TO MOVE OUT.



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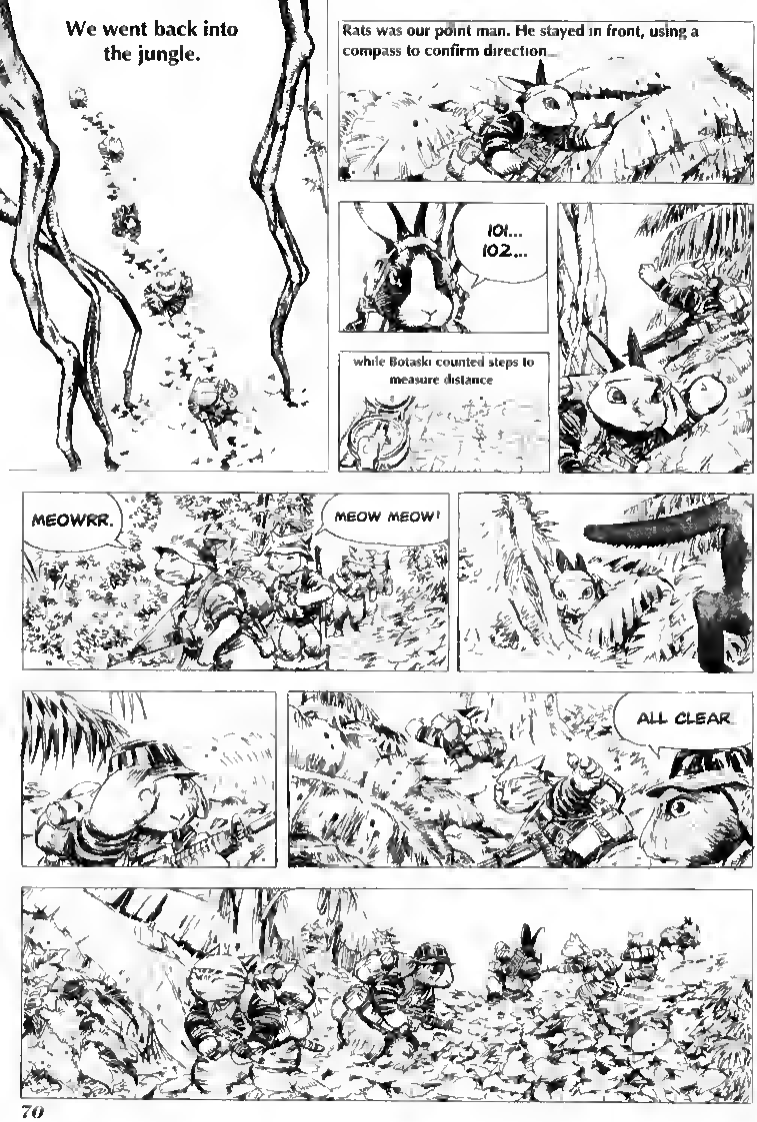
SERGEANT PERKINS, YOU AND YOUR TEAM WILL BE BLOWING UP A BRIDGE ON THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL.
LAOS
IT'S LOCATED INSIDE LAOS. WE CAN'T SEND THE AIR FORCE, OR IT'D BE AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT.
WE COULD REALLY USE THE [1]SEALS ON THIS ONE, BUT THEY ALREADY HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL...
ANYWAY, TAKE HOWEVER MANY OF THE YARDS THAT YOU NEED.
THE YARD LEADER SAYS IF IT'S YOU WHO'S ASKING, THEY'LL ALL GO. HE SAYS YOU'RE AN HONORABLE MAN...
AND THAT YOU'LL BRING EVERYONE BACK, ALIVE OR DEAD.
THANKS BUT I'M NOT THAT HONORABLE

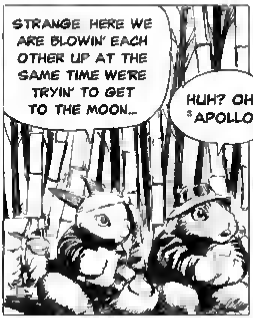
MISSION: 7

Year of the Monkey (Part 2) – Bridge Demolition

[1] *SEAL* = The Special Forces division of the U.S. Navy. The name is an acronym for *SEa, Air* and *Land*.

[6] *Rock n roll* – Slang term meaning to go into action esp firing one's weapon set on full automatic


We went back into the jungle.
Rats was our point man. He stayed in front, using a compass to confirm direction.
101...
102...
while Botaski counted steps to measure distance
MEOWRR.
MEOW MEOW!
ALL CLEAR.



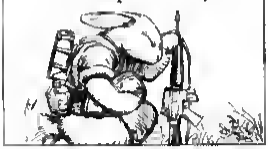
The Tet Offensive

January 30th February 4th 1968 The Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) launched a massive coordinated attack with some 60 000-80 000 soldiers Their main objectives were the Bien Hoa Air Base, Tan Son Nhut International Airport the American Embassy in Saigon and the occupation of Huế City A total of 23 American bases were attacked In Huế the fighting continued until February 14th

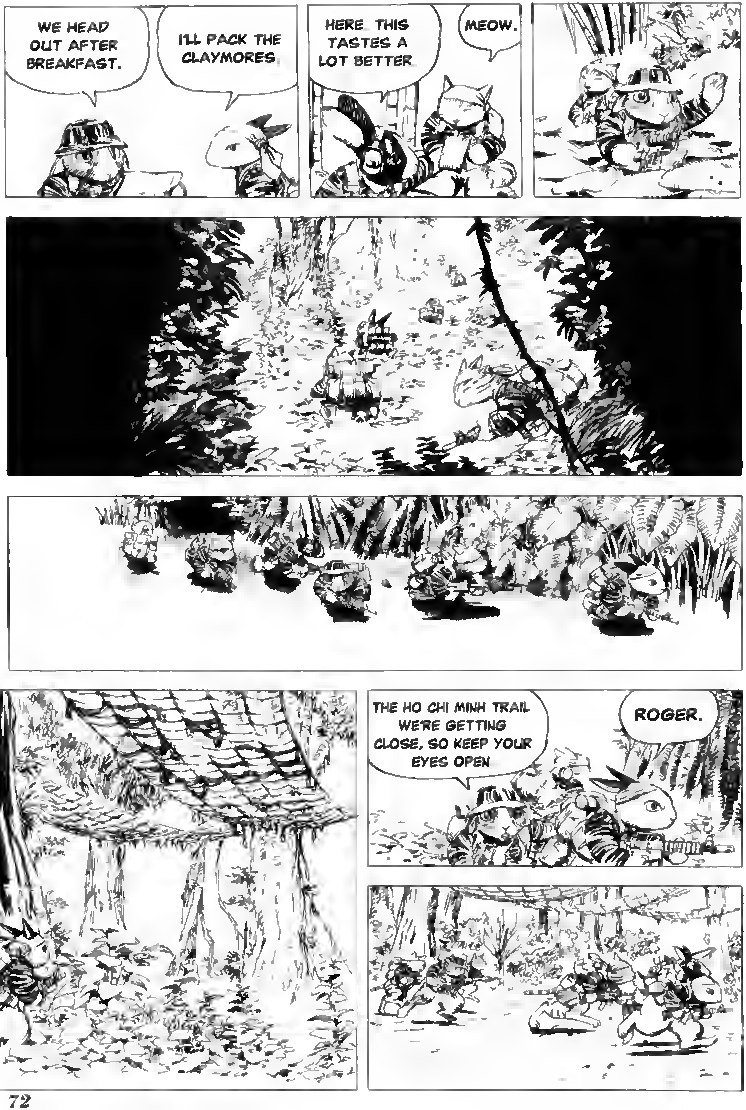
Casualties in the Tet Offensive

	American Forces	South Vietnamese Forces	NVA/Viet Cong	Civilians
Dead	1 536	2 788	30-40 000	14 000
Wounded	7 764	6 299		24 000

In 1968, the number of American soldiers in Vietnam reached its peak at 525,000



[5] *Apollo* – the American space program to send a human to the moon and back

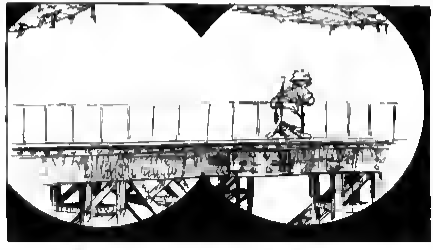

WE HEAD OUT AFTER BREAKFAST.
I'LL PACK THE CLAYMORES.
HERE. THIS TASTES A LOT BETTER.
MEOW.
THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL. WE'RE GETTING CLOSE, SO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.
ROGER.

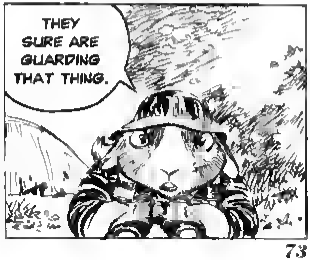
PERKY!

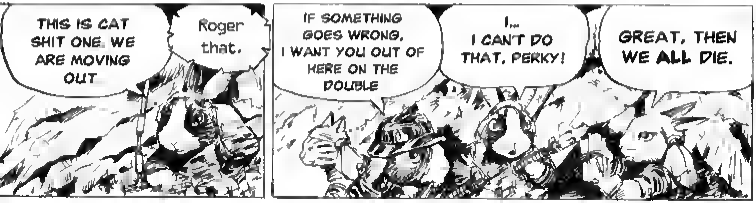
OVER THERE.
FRENCH-MADE, CIRCA 1930. YUP, THAT'S IT.

CALL IT IN, BOTA.
ROGER.

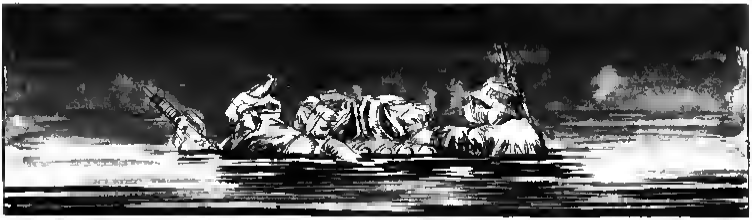
COME NIGHTFALL, YOU AND I ARE TAKIN' THAT THING DOWN.
FOR NOW, WE WAIT. TELL THE YARDS.
ROGER



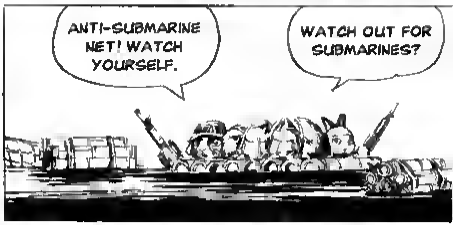

THEY SURE ARE GUARDING THAT THING.


THIS IS CAT SHIT ONE. WE ARE MOVING OUT.
Roger that.
IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG, I WANT YOU OUT OF HERE ON THE DOUBLE.
I... I CAN'T DO THAT, PERKY!
GREAT, THEN WE ALL DIE.

[1] *RV* = Rendezvous point
[2] *LZ* = Landing Zone

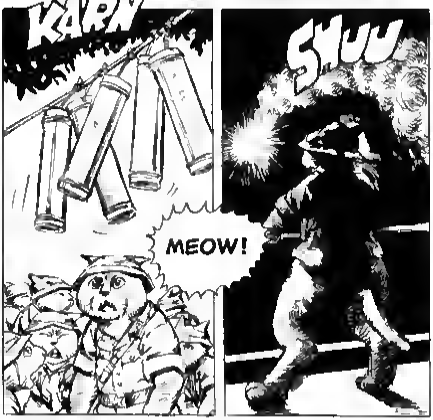


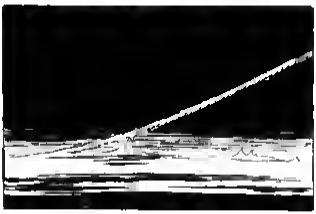
LOOK SHARP THERE'S SOMETHING OUT THERE..


ANTI-SUBMARINE NET! WATCH YOURSELF.
WATCH OUT FOR SUBMARINES?

NO. WATCH SO YOU DON'T GET CAUGHT.

WHAT IS IT?
I'M STUCK ON SOMETHIN' HERE.


KARN
MEOW!
SHUU



PAPAPAPAM
THE GOOKS FOUND 'EM!
PAPAM
BAOM
ZIP ZIP
WAUGH!
CHICO, OVER THERE!
MEOW!
TKKTKKTKKTKKTKKTKK
KKKK

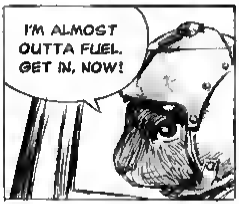
BAKOW!
EVERYONE, GET OUT OF THERE!
ZIP
ZIP
MEOW.
MEOW!
YOU OKAY?
GIMME YOUR HAND
THANKS.
PERKY, THOSE GUYS WERE NVA.
SHIT. WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT TO THE RV.
MEOW.

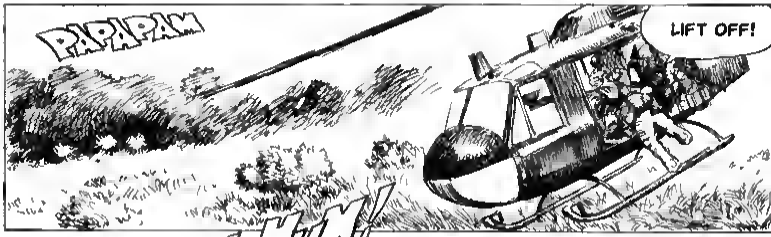
WHERE ARE PERKY AND RATS?
MEOW.
OKAY. LET'S HEAD TO THE LZ.
MEOW, MEOW!
MEOW
THERE'S MORE OF 'EM!
SHIT, LOOK.
THEY'RE [3] TRACKERS! THIS IS NOT GOOD, MAN.
WE'VE GOTTA BUY SOME TIME... LET'S TAKE 'EM FOR A RIDE.

[3] Tracker = aka "combat tracker" those specialized in tracking the enemy

HEY, YOU'RE TOO EARLY!

PERKY AND RATS AREN'T HERE YET.


I'M ALMOST OUTTA FUEL. GET IN, NOW!


PAPAPAM
LIFT OFF!

WHUUUUM

THEY LEFT US!

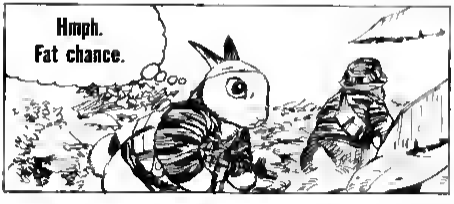
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

WE CAN MAKE IT. WE HAVE THIS.

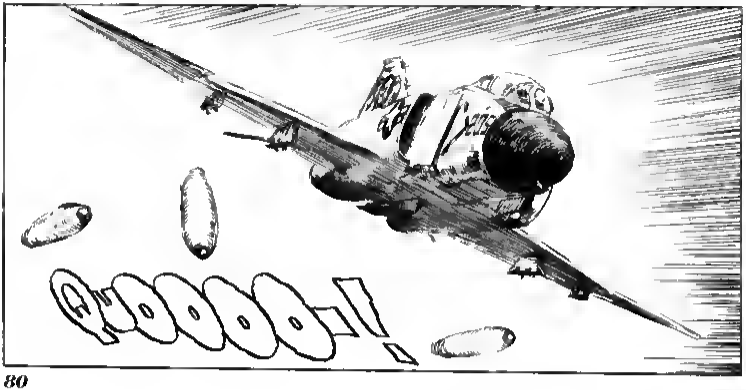
URC-10
Survival Radio

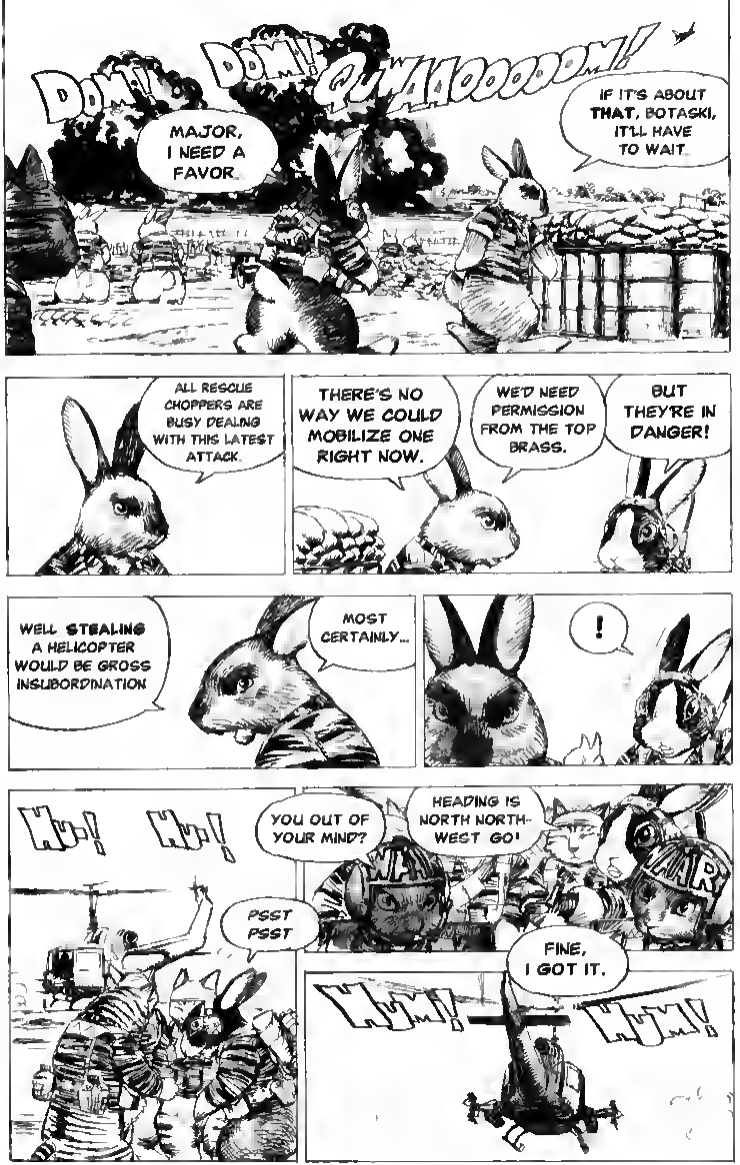
THAT THING? THE SIGNAL WILL NEVER REACH 'EM.

LOOK, WE'LL GET OUR BACKUP... OR WE'LL JUST HOOF IT BACK!


Hmph. Fat chance.

DID WE LOSE THOSE TRACKERS?


Q0000-!!


DOM!!
DOM!!
QUAAOOOOOM!!
MAJOR, I NEED A FAVOR.
IF IT'S ABOUT THAT, BOTASKI, IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT.
ALL RESCUE CHOPPERS ARE BUSY DEALING WITH THIS LATEST ATTACK.
THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD MOBILIZE ONE RIGHT NOW.
WE'D NEED PERMISSION FROM THE TOP BRASS.
BUT THEY'RE IN DANGER!
WELL STEALING A HELICOPTER WOULD BE GROSS INSUBORDINATION
MOST CERTAINLY...
!
Hm! Hm!
YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?
HEADING IS NORTH NORTH-WEST GO!
PSST PSST
FINE, I GOT IT.
HMM!! HMM!!

THEY'RE STILL ON OUR TAIL.
THESE GUYS ARE GOOD.
LET'S TAKE 'EM.
WE'RE OUTNUMBERED AND LOW ON AMMO.
IF WE GET WOUNDED, WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT.
THEY MAY BE PROS, BUT SO ARE WE. LET'S LOSE 'EM.
THAT'S GOOD THINKIN', MAN LET'S DO IT.
DON'T STEP IN ANY OF THOSE SOFT SPOTS
OR BREAK ANY TWIGS, RIGHT?
EVEN STEPPING ON MOSS CAN LEAVE A TRACK
SO LET'S GO IN THE RIVER.
PERKY, THAT'S THE WRONG WAY.
WE'LL GO DOWNSTREAM. IT WON'T MUDDY UP THE WATER SO MUCH

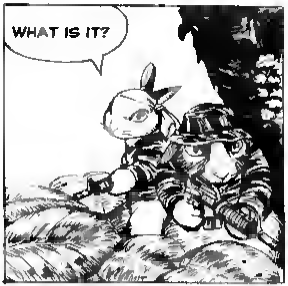
KLM!

BETWEEN THE EXTRA WEIGHT AND THIS TERRAIN, OUR POWER LEVELS ARE WAY DOWN.
RIDE'S OVER.

FINE. WE'LL GET OFF HERE.
MEOW.

WRAP THIS ON YOUR FEET. I'LL COVER YOUR TRACKS.

YOU KNOW YOUR SHIT, PERKY.
JUST LEAVE THIS TO ME.

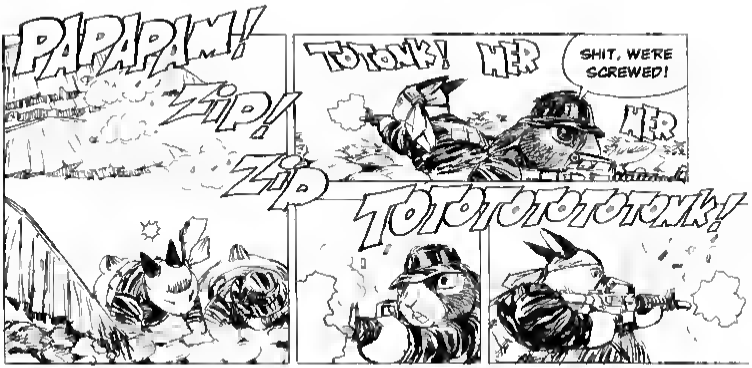

WHAT IS IT?

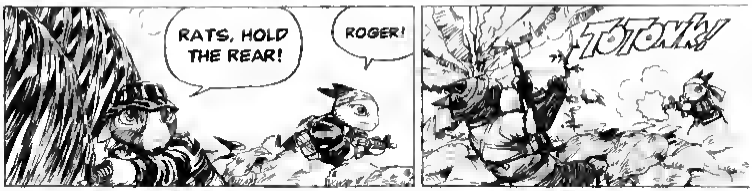
THEY OUTSMARTED US.
THEY KNEW WHERE WE WERE HEADED.

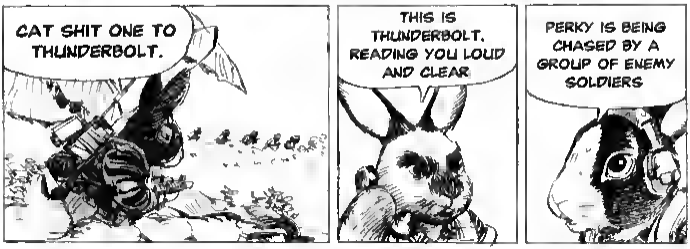
THERE'S ONLY FOUR OF 'EM. LET'S ROCK-N-ROLL.
NO. THAT'S AN ORDER.
WE'RE BOTH GETTING BACK ALIVE, RATS.
I DON'T KNOW, MAN..

!
MEOW!
TOTOTONK!
SHIT!
TOTOTONK!
TOTONK! TOTONK!
TONK! TOTONK!
HR HR
HR HR HR
I'M SORRY. I PANICKED.
SH!!! BAKOM!
RUN!

SH!
BAM!
C'MON, MOVE IT!
IT WAS PRETTY FAR, THOUGH.
THAT WAY.
SOTA, MEOW!
MEOW.
YEAH, I HEARD IT.
SHIT. THAT'S A WHOLE PLATOON
HER
HER
HER
I THINK WE LOST 'EM.
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!


PAPAPAM!
ZIP!
ZIP
TOTONK!
HER
SHIT, WE'RE SCREWED!
HER
TOTOTOTOTONK!


RATS, HOLD THE REAR!
ROGER!
TOTONK!

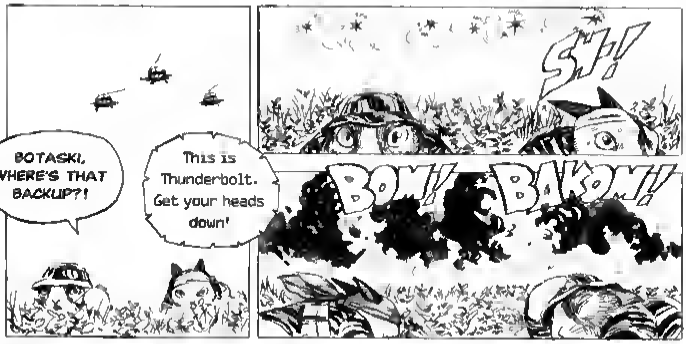

CAT SHIT ONE TO THUNDERBOLT.
THIS IS THUNDERBOLT. READING YOU LOUD AND CLEAR
PERKY IS BEING CHASED BY A GROUP OF ENEMY SOLDIERS

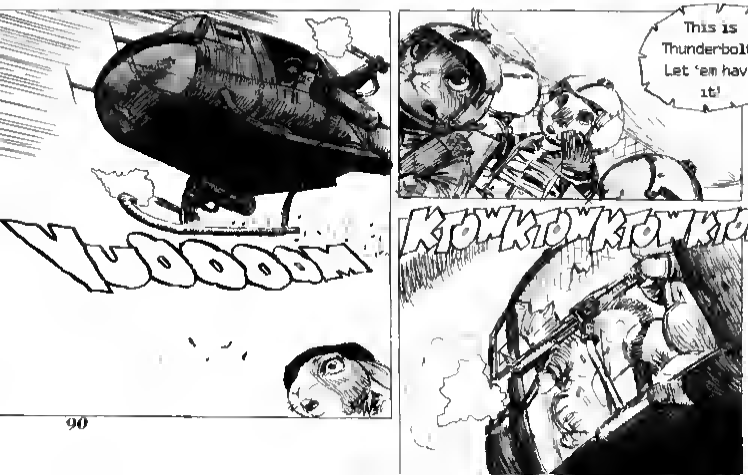
CONTACT PERKY AND KEEP IN TOUCH.
MIKE FORCE IS MOVING OUT.
MIKE FORCE?

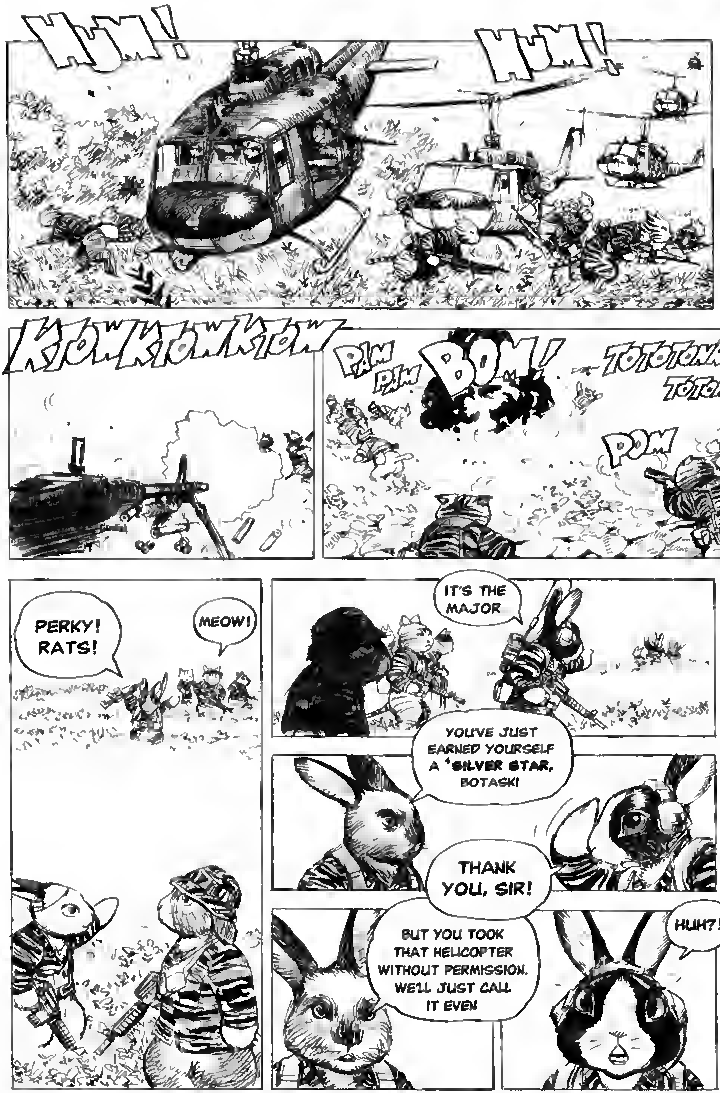
PAPAPAM!
PAPAM!
ZIP!..ZIP
PERKY, I'M DOWN TO THREE MAGS.
ZIP!
HERE. DON'T GO CRAZY WITH 'EM.
AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE RUN OUT?
Botaski to Perky, over!
BOTASKI! WHERE ARE YOU?
YOU'VE GOT A BUNCH OF VC RIGHT ON YOUR TAILS!
IT'S ALL OVER.
WHA?
.....
ZIP! ZIP!
YEAH, NO SHIT!
THE MAJOR'S SENDING IN MIKE FORCE!
PAM PAM
TOTOK!
GOT IT. JUST DON'T LOSE 'EM!
RATS, RUN!

TOTOTOTONK!
TOTOTOTONK!
HR HR
PAPAPAM!
MEOW!
CAT SHIT ONE TO THUNDERBOLT. THE VC ARE MOVING SOUTHEAST.
This is Thunderbolt. Give us the exact coordinates.
PAPAM
SH!
DOM!

PIPIM PIM PIM
ZIP!
ZIP!
WE'RE SURROUNDED AND OUT OF BULLETS


BOTASKI, WHERE'S THAT BACKUP?!
This is Thunderbolt. Get your heads down!
SH!
BOM!! BAKOM!!


YUOOOOM
This is Thunderbolt. Let 'em have it!
KOWKOWKOWKOW



4 *Silver Star* = The third highest US military award awarded for "gallantry in action It is similar to the Iron Cross used by the German army in WWII

*Manga-Sketchbook*Irchighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org

All us guys in Cat Shit One finally got some R&R. Just 72 hours...and it took us a whole day to get to Saigon.

Saigon, the Special Zone.
As a show of respect to the Vietnamese government, the American military could not bring their rifles into Saigon

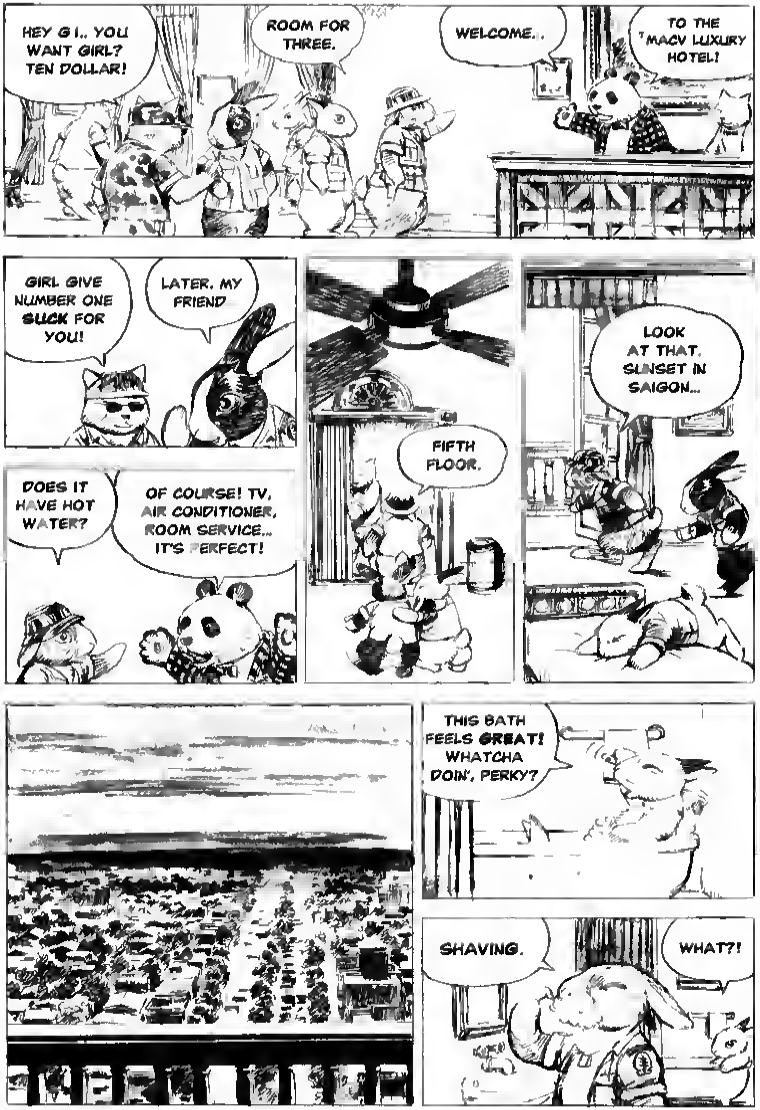
[1] *Number ten* – The worst possible. The best possible is "number one."
[2] *Slick* – A transport helicopter.
[3] *The World* = The U.S.A.

THERE'S THE *VIETNAMESE WHITE HOUSE
TAKE US TO THE HOTEL
PEACE!
*JOE, YOU WANT CIGARETTE?
NAM SHIT
KEEP THE CHANGE
THANK YOU, G.I.!
HEY JOE, TRANSISTOR RADIO, MADE IN JAPAN! YOU LIKE?
JOE, WE TAKE YOU ANYWHERE, GIVE YOU TOUR
WE BUY *U.S. DOLLAR, GOOD PRICE!
GET OUTTA HERE!

*Vietnamese White House: The th[illegible] official residence of the President of South Vietnam. It now is a war museum.

‡Joe: A Vietnam War-era name for US soldiers. "G.I." is an older term from WWI.

*U.S. Dollar: U.S. soldiers were given MPC (Military Paper Currency) to use as money. U.S. dollars were traded at high rates on the black market eventually passing through the hands of the Viet Cong and ending up in North Vietnam. Dollars became a foreign currency for North Vietnam and naturally were also used for international trade.


HEY G I.. YOU WANT GIRL? TEN DOLLAR!
ROOM FOR THREE.
WELCOME..
TO THE †MACV LUXURY HOTEL!
GIRL GIVE NUMBER ONE SUCK FOR YOU!
LATER. MY FRIEND
FIFTH FLOOR.
LOOK AT THAT. SUNSET IN SAIGON...
DOES IT HAVE HOT WATER?
OF COURSE! TV, AIR CONDITIONER, ROOM SERVICE.. IT'S PERFECT!
THIS BATH FEELS GREAT! WHATCHA DOIN', PERKY?
SHAVING.
WHAT?!

†*MACV* = Military Assistance Command Vietnam

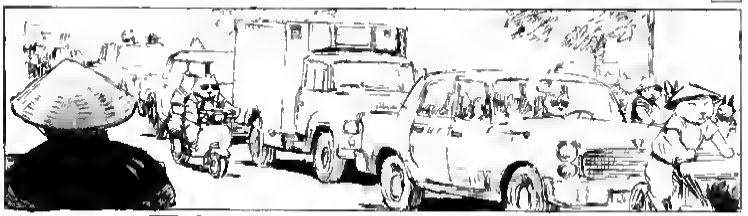
THIS CHOW MEIN STUFF IS GREAT!
CHOW MEIN IS CHINESE. THIS IS PHO
JOE, WE CLOSE STORE NOW.

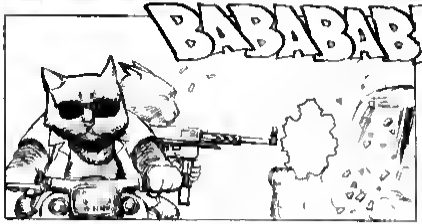
WHAT?! IT'S TOO EARLY!
IT'S CITY CURFEW 10.00 TO 6.00, NO ONE GO OUT
HEY, WHERE'S BOTASKI?

AREN'T WE THERE YET?
HEH HEH. THIS WAY!

YA-HOO!

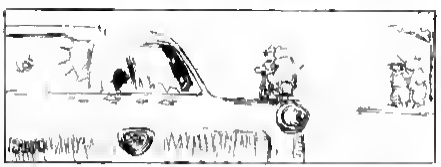
GET SERGEANT PERKINS DOWN HERE.
WHAT IS IT.
IT'S YOUR MAN, BOTASKI. I'LL HAND HIM OVER TO YOU, BUT...
MAKE SURE HE FOLLOWS ORDERS NEXT TIME. CHOLON IS OFF-LIMITS.
YES, SIR!
MAN, THEY TOOK ALL MY MONEY!
CHEER UP. I GOT YOU COVERED.
YEAH, AND I'LL BUY YOUR DRINKS.
STUPID LYIN' GOOKS! I HATE 'EM ALL!
FORGET ABOUT IT. LET'S HAVE SOME FUN.




BABABABANG!

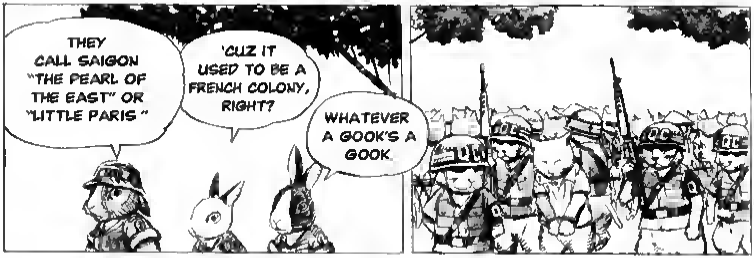
ZIP ZIP

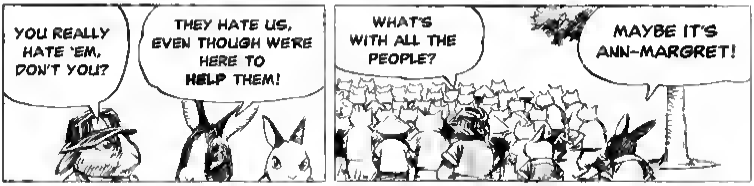
HR
Sài Gòn
HR

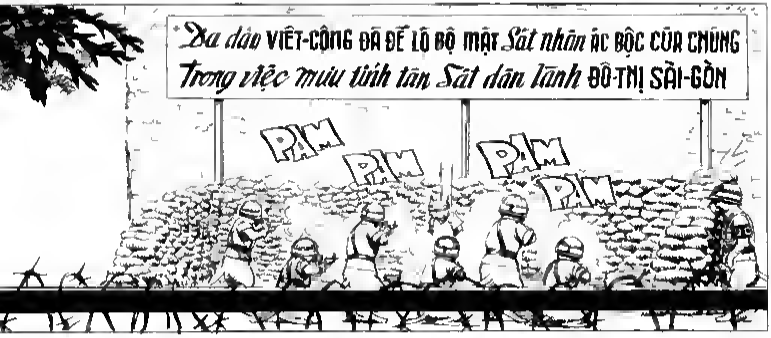


P-POOO!

THOSE WERE VC TERRORISTS. LET'S GO.
I'M TELLIN' YA, THESE BASTARDS ARE EVIL.
THAT'S SAIGON FOR YOU. HELL, THE BASE IS SAFER THAN HERE



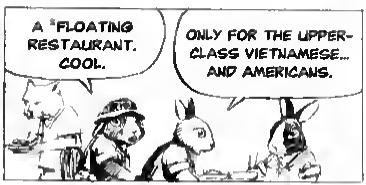


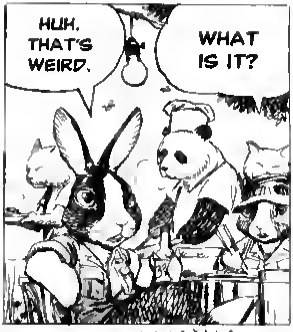


* The sign reads "These Vietcong are the very same who have perpetrated murder upon the good citizens of Saigon."

LOOK! THESE STUPID PEOPLE JUST KILL EACH OTHER!
I CAN'T SEE.
LET'S GO, RATS.
BROOOM
YOU THINK WE'RE JUST HELPING THE EVIL GOVERNMENT OF THIS COUNTRY?
MAYBE. BUT...
THE NORTH ARE LITTLE BETTER THAN TERRORISTS THEMSELVES. THEY KILLED A LOT OF HUE'S CIVILIANS DURING THE TET ATTACK.
CAN'T EVEN TELL YOUR FRIENDS FROM YOUR ENEMIES, HUH?
JOE! TEN HANDKERCHIEFS, TWENTY [1] PIASTER.
EXCUSE ME. MACV, WHERE? I AM JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN
OVER THERE.
JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN, NUMBER ONE!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH. G.I. IS NUMBER ONE!

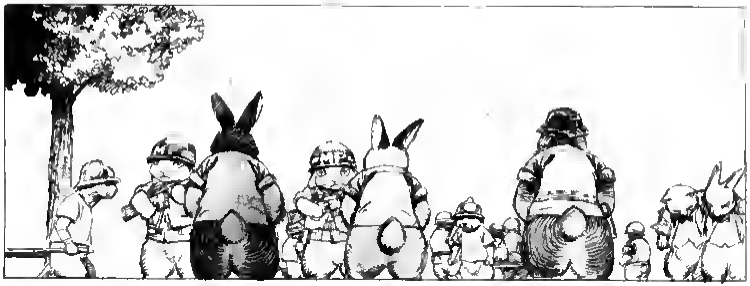
[1] *Piaster* = Unit of South Vietnamese currency

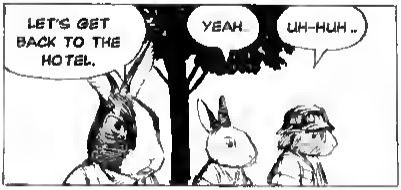


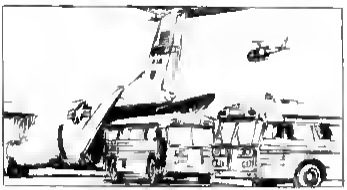


My Canh - An actual floating restaurant in Saigon. The terrorist bombing shown here occurred on June 25, 1965.

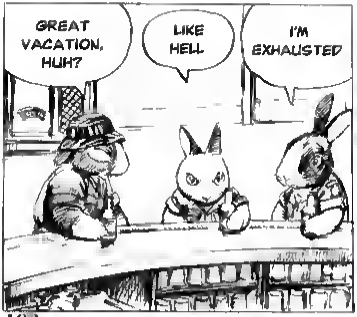
BAKOOM!!
MEOW!
RUN!
DON'T PUSH!
BAKOOM!!
UNGHH...
HELP!
JESUS CHRIST...
TERRORISTS.

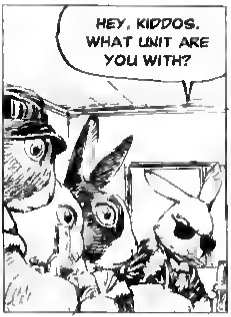



LET'S GET BACK TO THE HOTEL.
YEAH.
UH-HUH..



THE FLIGHT VIA NHA TRANG LEAVES AT 1030 HOURS.
ROGER. WE'LL KILL SOME TIME AT THE BAR


GREAT VACATION, HUH?
LIKE HELL.
I'M EXHAUSTED


HEY, KIDDOS. WHAT UNIT ARE YOU WITH?

AIRBORNE

[3]CCN, DOIN' [4]RECON FOR [5]SOG.
SOG, HUH? THIS WAR'S JUST GONNA GET WORSE. YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
'NAM CAN'T TEACH US SHIT. WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THE ENEMY IS.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
DOESN'T MATTER. JUST BE CAREFUL OUT THERE. DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.
IT'S TIME!
STAY ALIVE, KIDDOS.
WHO WAS THAT?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
Hyu! Hyu!

[3] *CCN* = Command and Control North. Formed by MACV-SOG as an extension of its Da Nang Forward Operations Base.

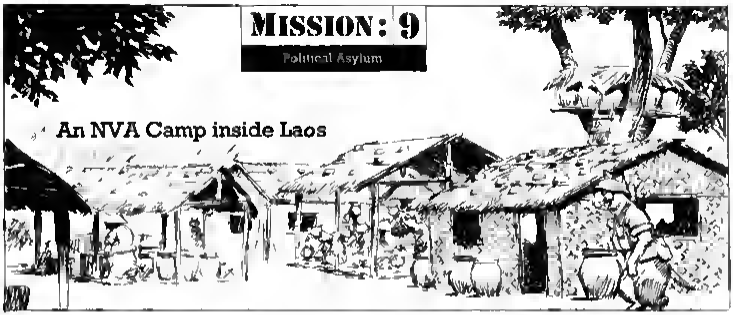
[4] *Recon* = Short for "reconnaissance." A Reconnaissance Team is abbreviated as "RT."

[5] *SOG* = Special Operations Group. Publicly it was called by its cover name: the Studies and Observations Group.

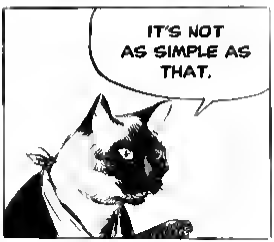
*Manga-Sketchbook*Irchighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org

MISSION: 9

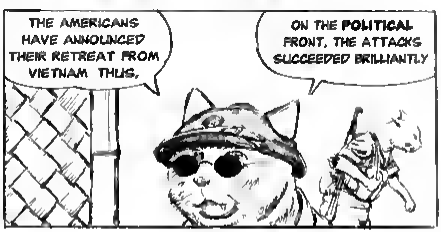
Political Asylum



THE [1]TET OFFENSIVE WAS A DISASTER. OUR ORGANIZATION IS IN RUINS
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. THE ORDER CAME DOWN FROM THE PARTY LEADERS THEMSELVES.



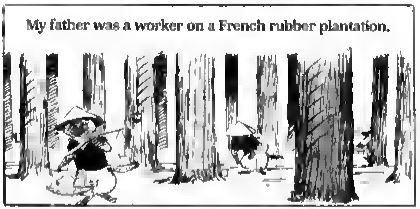
THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMED FORCES AND YOUR NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY BOTH SUFFERED GREAT LOSSES.
STILL, THE PARTY CONSIDERS THE TET OFFENSIVE A SUCCESS

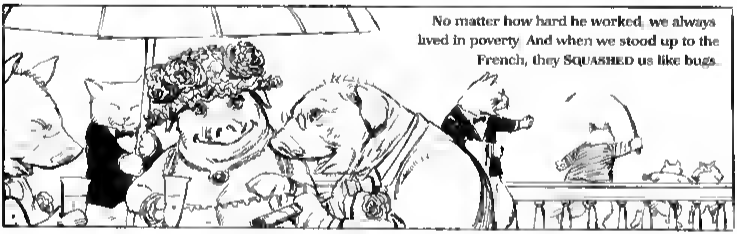

THE AMERICANS HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR RETREAT FROM VIETNAM. THUS,
ON THE POLITICAL FRONT, THE ATTACKS SUCCEEDED BRILLIANTLY

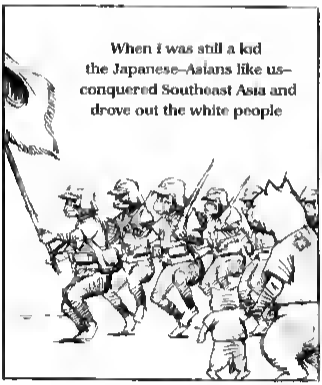
HOW MANY MORE OF [2]INDOCHINA'S PEOPLE ARE YOU WILLING TO KILL FOR THE SAKE OF UNIFICATION?!
YOU MEAN LIBERATION AND WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

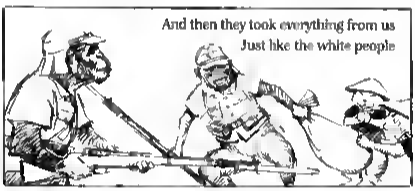
[1] *Tet Offensive* = The surprise attack launched late Jan 30, 1968. Broadcast feed of the conflict caused an uproar in America, with the result that American troops were withdrawn.

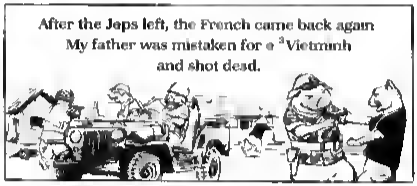
[2] *Indochina* = In the 18th century, France assumed rule over the colonies in Southeast Asia and named the region Indochina. Following the First Indochina War, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam were declared independent regions via the signing of the Geneva Peace Accords in 1954.

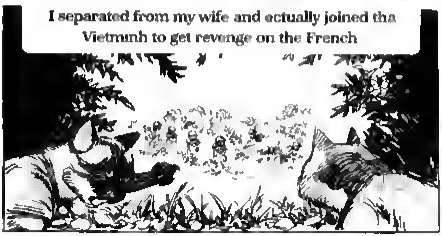


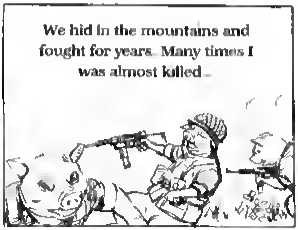






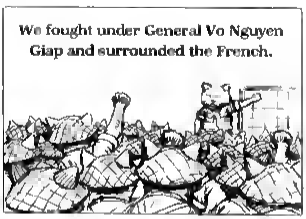


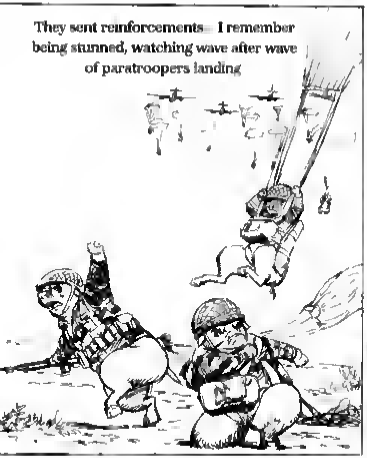


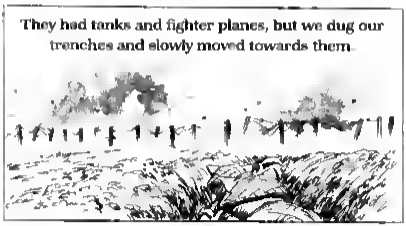


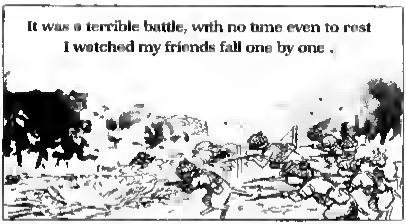
[3]*Vietminh* – Ho Chi Minh's army organized to fight against the French during the First Indochina War (1947-1954)

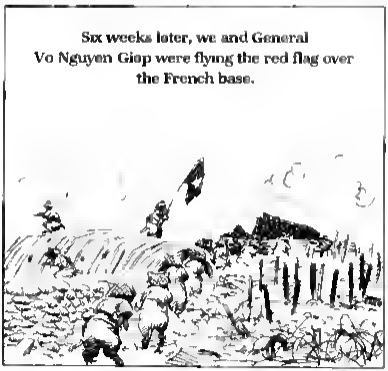
Our first big victory was at Dien Bien Phu

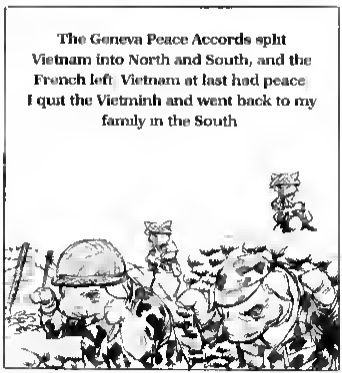

We fought under General Vo Nguyen Giap and surrounded the French.


They sent reinforcements. I remember being stunned, watching wave after wave of paratroopers landing


They had tanks and fighter planes, but we dug our trenches and slowly moved towards them.


It was a terrible battle, with no time even to rest I watched my friends fall one by one .

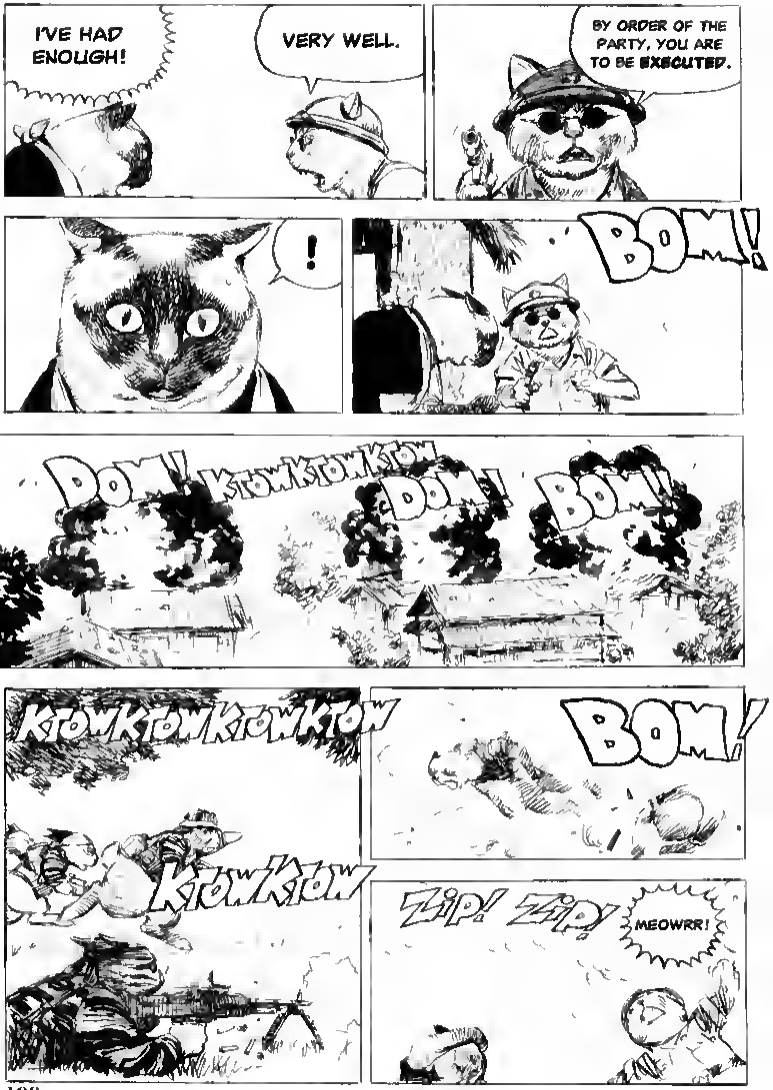

Six weeks later, we and General Vo Nguyen Giap were flying the red flag over the French base.


The Geneva Peace Accords split Vietnam into North and South, and the French left. Vietnam at last had peace. I quit the Vietminh and went back to my family in the South

But peace didn't last long This time the AMERICANS came, and in many ways THEY exploited us, too My two sons became involved with the National Liberation Front
One was captured as a suspected [4]Vietcong
Then the [5]PUPPET ARMY came to our village
My wife and children were killed . My village and fields burned.. I picked up my gun once again
I fought for years I even killed FARMERS if they were helping the government
I've committed terrorist bombings, killed people as they were begging for their lives. .
BUT I'M TIRED OF THE FIGHTING. I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE REASON WHY I'M KILLING ANYMORE.
WE'RE NO BETTER THAN THE PUPPET ARMY! I'M SICK OF ALL THE FIGHTING.
SICK OF IT!
I'VE FOUGHT FOR THIRTY YEARS! I'VE LOST MY WIFE, MY FAMILY... MY ENTIRE VILLAGE!

[4] *Vietcong* – Vietnamese People's Liberation Armed Forces

[5] *Puppet Army* = Term used by the National Liberation Front for the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) whom the former accused of being puppets of the Americans


I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
VERY WELL.
BY ORDER OF THE PARTY, YOU ARE TO BE EXECUTED.
!
BOM!
DOM!
KTOWKTOWKTOW
DOM!
BOM!
KTOWKTOWKTOWKTOW
KTOWKTOW
BOM!
ZIP! ZIP!
MEOWRR!

PAM
FREEZE! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

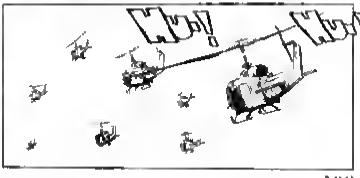
CU NGOC NINH.

OK, MR. CU NGOC NINH WE'VE COME TO GET YOU

BOTASKI, CALL IT IN.
THIS IS CAT SHIT ONE. WE'VE SECURED THE TARGET.

TOTOTONK!
RATS, LET'S GO!
PAPAM!

YOUR REQUEST FOR ASYLUM'S BEEN ACCEPTED YOU'RE SAFE.
THANK YOU, JOE.


WUP! WUP!

SKS

Manufactured by the Soviet Union after the war, but never came into popular use. The Chinese then began mass producing it, attaching a bayonet to the front and calling it the Model S6

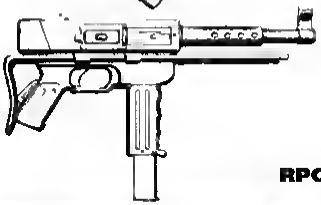
AK47

The main weapon of the Soviets following the war, and the primary assault weapon in the Communist arsenal. There were many variations, such as the *"metal stock"* version shown here

MAT M49

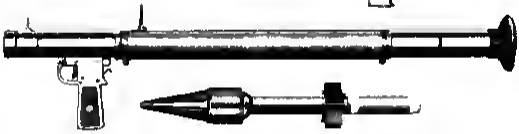
Submachine gun

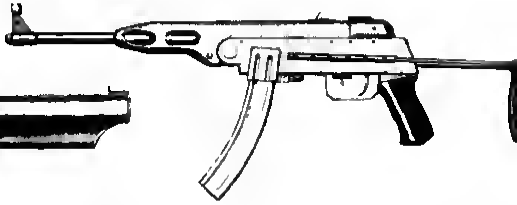
Captured from the French army and copied in North Vietnam



RPG2 Rocket Launcher

Copied from the German *"Panzer Fast"* model and used as an infantry supoort weapon. Also shown is the plastic explosive warhead it fired





Type 50 Submachine gun

Mass produced copy of the Soviet PPSh-41

Type 64 Silenced Pistol

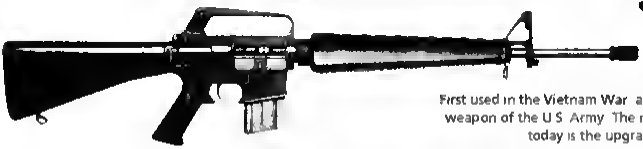
Silenced pistol used for Special Operations such as assassinations

M14 Rifle

Upgraded version of the M1 Garand (the primary weapon of WWII). During the course of the Vietnam war, the Army further upgraded to the M16 model, but the M14 was still used as a sniper rifle.

M60 Machine Gun

The primary machine gun following WWII. Though the M60 was superseded by the M249 (Minimi), a scaled-down version of the M60, it continues to be used today.



M16A1

First used in the Vietnam War, and the main weapon of the U.S. Army. The model in use today is the upgraded M16A2.

XM177E1

Also called the *"M16 Commando,"* this is essentially a shortened version of the M16. There is also a XM117E2, which has a barrel that is one inch longer than the **E1** model.

M79 Grenade Launcher

A 40mm caliber grenade launcher with a maximum range of 400 meters. A proven infantry support weapon. Incidentally, a grenade launcher was developed that could be attached to an M16 to make the M16/M203 model.

Model K Submachine gun

Purchased by the CIA from Sweden for use in Special Ops missions. The bolt proved to be too noisy, however, and so they were taken out of service in 1969. Replacing the Model K were the Ingram and the Uzi, both of which were fitted with silencers.

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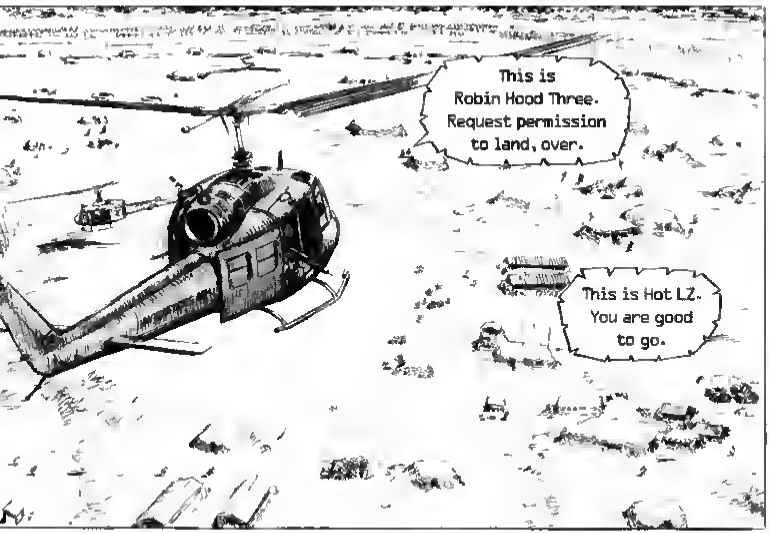
Dog Shit One

1967 – Year of the Sheep



BRAVO SIX, BRAVO SIX. COME IN.
LIEUTENANT GEORGE HENDRICK JR. REPORTING FOR DUTY, SIR!
WE NEED FIRE SUPPORT. THEY'RE COMING IN AT NIGHT.
SIR! LIEUTENANT–
YEAH, SAVE IT. RIGHT NOW, THEY NEED YOU OUT AT THE WEST WALL.
BUT SIR, I HAVEN'T BEEN ISSUED ANY WEAPONS YET.
FINE, TAKE THIS.
THE GOOKS ARE COMIN' AFTER DARK.
BAM!
THEY TOLD ME TO REPORT TO YOU, SERGEANT.
LIEUTENANT, IS IT? TAKE THAT BUNKER OVER THERE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. I'VE ONLY BEEN IN VIETNAM FOR SIX HOURS!

DIE, G.I.!
WE GOT GOOK!
THERE'S SOMETHING MOVING OUT THERE.
WHERE?
THERE. THAT SHADOW...
SET OFF THE CLAYMORES!
CLICK!
CLICK!
BAM!
BAOM!

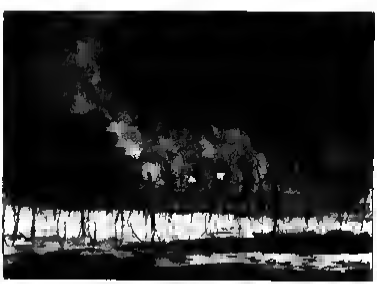
BAOM!
ZIP!
ZIP!

SHIT! THEY SWITCHED THE DIRECTION OF THE CLAYMORES!

BAWM!

BAKOM!
WAUGH!

I SEE THEM!



PAPAM!

SHH!
BAKOM!

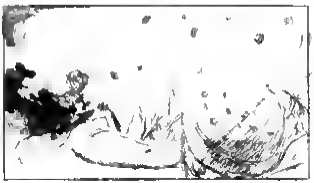
MOVE IT!
THEY'RE GONNA BOMB US!

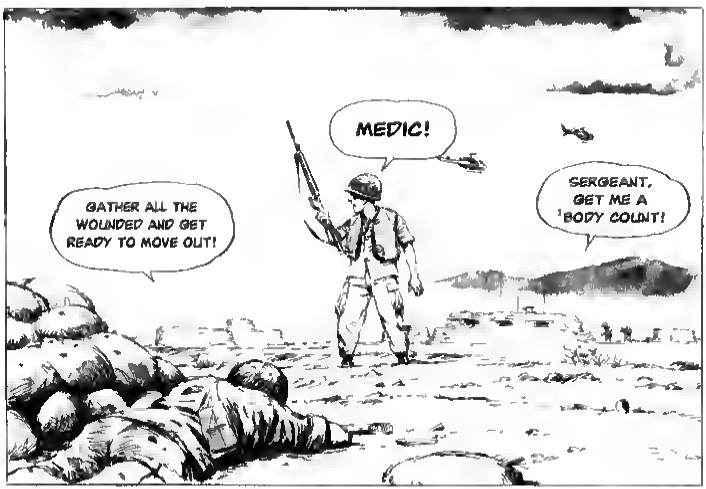
THEY'VE CLEARED THE PERIMETER!

SHH!
BAKOM!

SHOOT! YOU WANNA GET KILLED?!
PAPAM! PAPAPAM
KTOWKTOWKTOWKTOWKTOW
BRAVO SIX, DO YOU READ? THIS IS BRAVO CP
THE GOOKS HAVE BROKEN THROUGH! WE NEED THAT FIRE SUPPORT, NOW!
IT'S THE WEST SIDE. JUST DROP IT RIGHT OVER US!

PA.PA.PA.PAM! PA.PAM! PA.PAM!
GET EVERYONE TOGETHER, AND GET READY TO COUNTERATTACK!
YES, SIR!
SI!
GET DOWN!
ZUNO!
BAOM!





[1] *Body Count* = Confirmed number of dead

LIEUTENANT, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WE'LL TAKE YOU TO THE FIELD HOSPITAL
NO, I'M OKAY, CAPTAIN.
YOU'LL BE CAPTAIN YOURSELF IN A COUPLE YEARS. YOU REST UP NOW.
THE VC AREN'T GOIN' ANYWHERE SAY, YOU A "WEST POINTER?
I WAS ROTC. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
GEORGE HENDRICK, CLASS OF '66.
OKAY, LT. HENDRICK THE CHOPPER WILL TAKE YOU TO A SMALL PLATOON JUST OUTSIDE OF OUR POSITION.

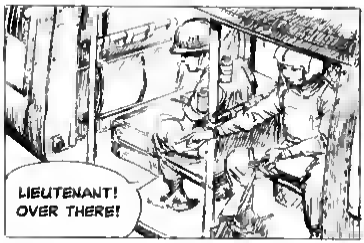
There are two ways to become an officer in the US Military. The first is to attend a government military academy such as West Point *(Army)* Annapolis *(Navy)* or Colorado Springs *(Air Force)* The other is through the ROTC *(Reserve Officers Training Corps)* program offered at more than 300 universities nationwide. In terms of military education offered, the two are almost entirely the same - the only difference being in their organizational structure and the necessary requirements upon receiving one's commission (also military academies receive funding from the Federal Government, while ROTC programs are privately funded)

Once commissioned, the required tour of duty is five years for military academy graduates, and three to four years for ROTC graduates. If so desired, however, longer tours of duty are also available.

Currently, becoming a commissioned officer in the United States military requires an intense amount of work. It is especially difficult for ROTC students, who are required to fulfill both military and general education requirements. Consequently, 40-60% of ROTC students drop out of the program. During the Vietnam War, however, 80-90% of the officers were ROTC graduates. Because of the increased demand for officers, "mass production" of lieutenants was rampant, with the result that many were ill-suited for their newly found rank.

Many young lives were lost to the war effort, all in the name of duty, honor and patriotism.

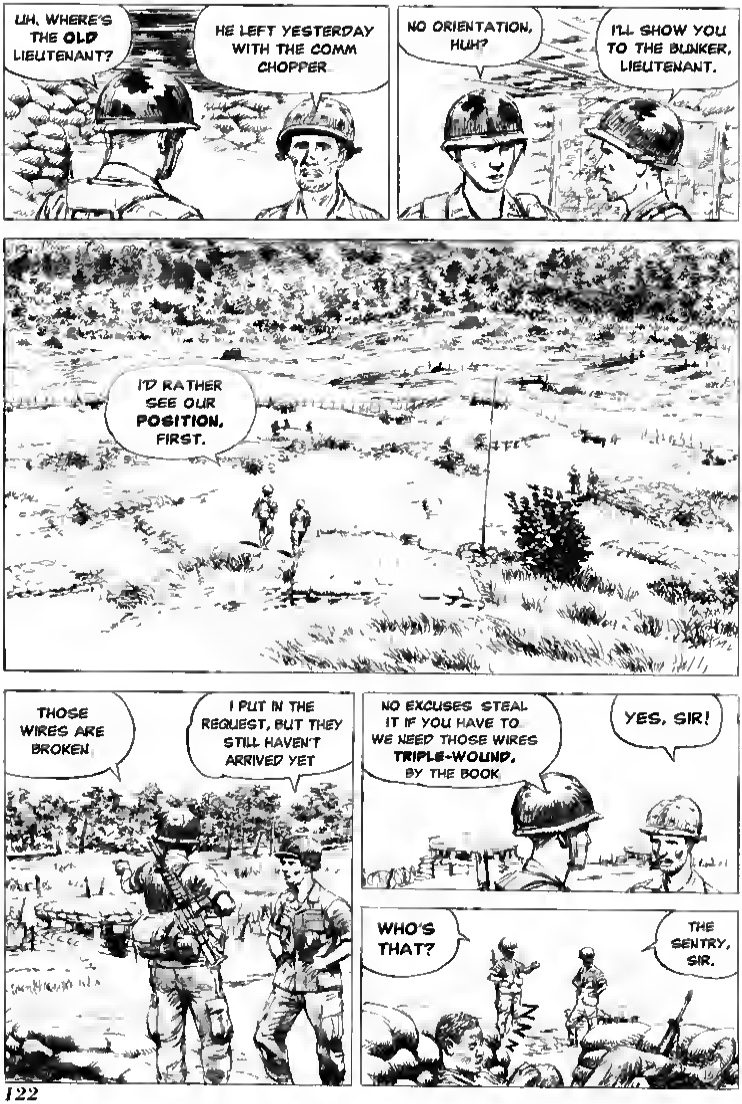
"*West Pointer* = A graduate of West Point Military Academy


LIEUTENANT! OVER THERE!

WHM! WHM!

IS THIS THE CP?

YEAH. YOU THE NEW LIEUTENANT?


UH, WHERE'S THE OLD LIEUTENANT?
HE LEFT YESTERDAY WITH THE COMM CHOPPER.
NO ORIENTATION, HUH?
I'LL SHOW YOU TO THE BUNKER, LIEUTENANT.
I'D RATHER SEE OUR POSITION, FIRST.
THOSE WIRES ARE BROKEN.
I PUT IN THE REQUEST, BUT THEY STILL HAVEN'T ARRIVED YET.
NO EXCUSES. STEAL IT IF YOU HAVE TO. WE NEED THOSE WIRES TRIPLE-WOUND, BY THE BOOK.
YES, SIR!
WHO'S THAT?
THE SENTRY, SIR.

WAKE HIM UP.
AS OF NOW, THE PENALTY FOR NAPPING WILL BE SEVERE.
WHAT'S THE PATROL SCHEDULE AROUND HERE?
WE DON'T DO THAT ANYMORE. WE WERE LOSIN' TOO MANY OF US TO AMBUSHES.
WE START AGAIN, THIS AFTERNOON. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DOING ANYTHING, HAVE YOU?
THE OLD LIEUTENANT STAYED IN HIS BUNKER ALL DAY.
WHAT?! WHY?
'CUZ SOMETIMES THEY SHOOT AT US FROM THE BUSH
WHO'S LEADING?
RODRIGUEZ. HE'S THE BEST.
YOU CAN LEARN STUFF HERE THEY DON'T TEACH IN SCHOOL.

MAN, THIS IS NUMBER TEN!
HA HA HA!
YOU'RE ON DUTY! THAT MEANS LOSE THE CHATTER, AND LOSE THE CIGARETTES!
YES, SIR!
HE SURE TALKS A LOT OF SHIT FOR AN 'FNG.
BAOM!
click

[3]FNG — NG stands for "New Guy." The F does NOT stand for "Friendly"

[1] *RO* = Radio Operator

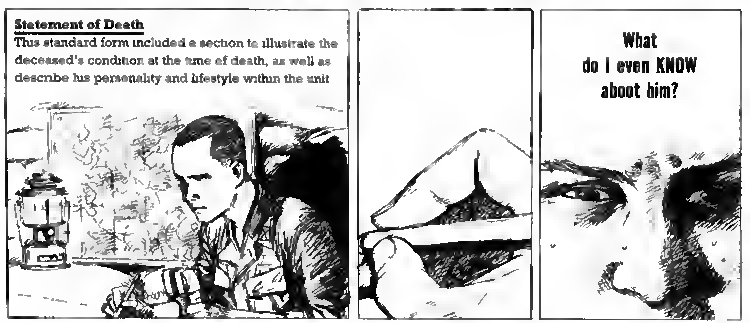
[2] *DUSTOFF* = Name given to medical "helicopter ambulances" used during wartime

THIS PLATOON IS OUT OF ORDER! WE MUST MAINTAIN ROE!
WHILE ON PATROL, KEEP NOISE AND LIGHTS TO A MINIMUM. NO TALKING, NO CIGARETTES!
AND NO BUG SPRAY! THE SMELL CAN TIP OFF THE VC.
C'MON LIEUTENANT, WE GOTTA USE THE SPRAY.
FORGET IT. YOU SHOULD'VE LEARNED THAT FROM JUNGLE TRAINING.
STARTING TOMORROW WE DO PATROLS EVERY DAY, MORNING AND AFTERNOON.
IF WE KEEP A REGULAR PATROL, THE VC WON'T HAVE A CHANCE TO SET THEIR BOOBY TRAPS.
PATROL ROUTES AND TIMES WILL CHANGE DAILY, SGT. MAJOR. I LEAVE THAT UP TO YOU.

[1] *ROE* – Rules of Engagement. The ROE specify various requirements to command and direct units prior to exchanging gunfire in the front lines.

[2] *Bug spray* – Also called "bug juice" by the soldiers.

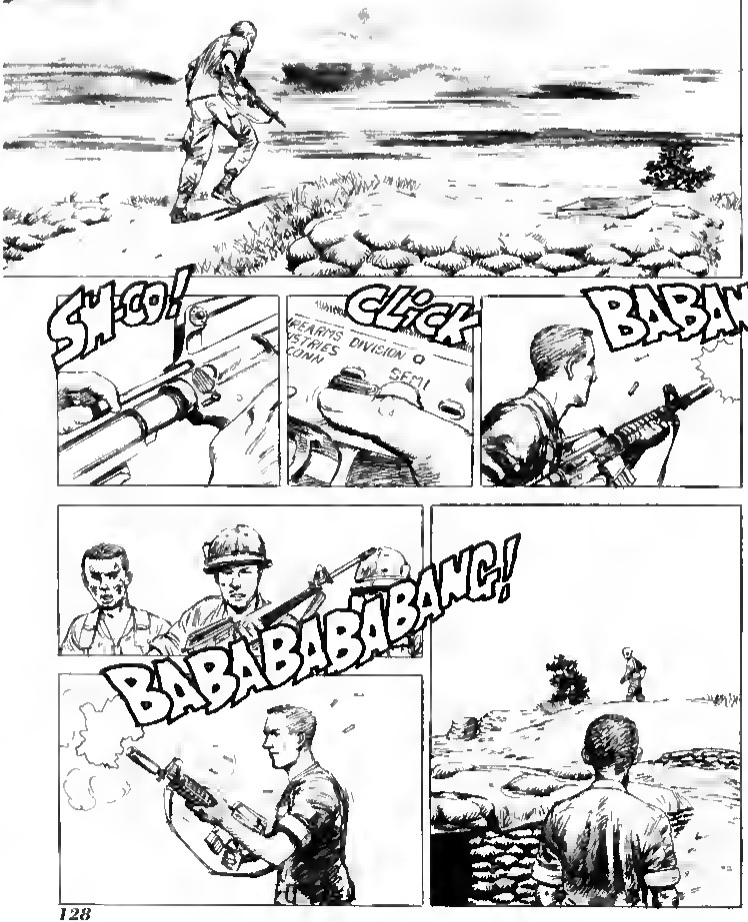
IF YOU HAVE ANY FREE TIME, YOU SHOULD USE IT TO REINFORCE OUR POSITION. NAPPING AND IGNORING ORDERS REFLECTS BADLY ON YOUR CO.
ANY PROBLEMS, AND YOU'RE OUT OF HERE. UNDERSTOOD?
THE GUY WHO STEPPED ON THE MINE DURING TODAY'S PATROL
LIEUTENANT, MY PLATOON'S RUNNIN' SHORT OF MEN.
LIEUTENANT, SIR? IT'S DELTA CP. THEY SAY THAT LANSON'S DEAD, AND THEY NEED A STATEMENT OF DEATH.
LANSON? WHO'S THAT?
ALRIGHT, EVERY DAY, I'LL JOIN YOU FOR ONE PATROL. DISMISSED
MAN. WHAT A TOTAL ASSHOLE.
YEAH. HE'LL GO RUNNIN' BACK HOME SOON ENOUGH.


Statement of Death
This standard form included a section to illustrate the deceased's condition at the time of death, as well as describe his personality and lifestyle within the unit
What do I even KNOW about him?

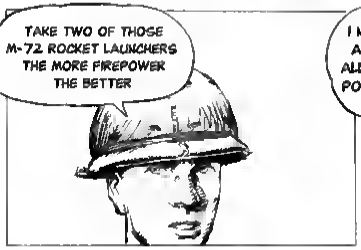
In 1965 and 1966 16 000 lieutenants began their tours of duty Seven percent of them were West Point graduates Under the law passed in 1838 soldiers were required to serve a minimum of four years The first veterans of the Vietnam war came home in July of 1970—even for the West Pointers there were no guarantees of a lifetime career in the military

Following WWII the Army instituted a "Get promoted or get retired" policy in order to maintain the strength of their fighting force Of 100 newly instated lieutenants, 82 made the rank of first lieutenant Of these 84 made it to captain, 72 to lieutenant commander 64 to lieutenant colonel, and 34 to colonel. Of these only two men—after 22 years of service—made it to the rank of brigadier general

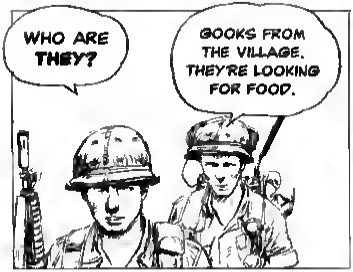
In other words lieutenants were an expendable commodity

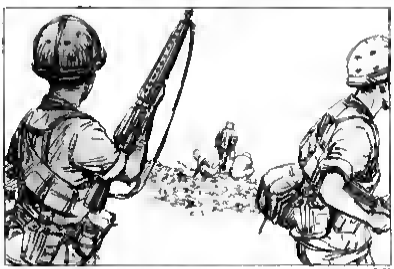


READY?
YES, SIR!


TAKE TWO OF THOSE M-72 ROCKET LAUNCHERS THE MORE FIREPOWER THE BETTER

RO. I NEED YOU BEHIND ME AND AT MY RIGHT AT ALL TIMES REPORT OUR POSITION EVERY THIRTY MINUTES
ROGER, SIR.


WHO ARE THEY?
GOOKS FROM THE VILLAGE. THEY'RE LOOKING FOR FOOD.



Postscript

I think it was around 1989, soon after the fall of the Berlin Wall, when I got the idea for *Apocalypse Meow*. I was watching *Tour of Duty* on video, and I thought to myself, "I could tell the same kind of story about the Vietnam War using rabbits, and it would be good." It certainly took a long time for the project to see the light of day, though.

I owe a debt of gratitude to the editor of *Combat Magazine* (hereafter, *CM*) for publishing my work. Up until then, I'd been perceived as more of a "straight line" author, one whose work was grounded in realism. Even recently, a certain publisher told me, "If you keep drawing stuff like this, you'll be signing away your career as an author."

Around 1991, I asked Nakamura (an assistant of mine at the time) to work on the rabbit sketches I'd done for my rough draft. He did, going "Wow, this is easy." I dropped my plan to help him become a professional author—the guy just doesn't use his head. I told him not to use what he'd drawn, because it was based on my draft—but later, I found that he'd gone ahead and stuck it in a fan comic. This is your problem, Nakamura! You don't get it, do you? I wonder if the next thing we'll be seeing from you is a rabbit black knight.

The title I'd used for the comic in *CM* magazine, "Dog Shit One," is a nickname for lowerclassmen at West Point. But even after several installments, it just wasn't very interesting. I couldn't get into the story at all. I came up with the idea of changing characters to rabbits, and faxed a draft to the editor of *CM*. "Interesting," came the reply. "So, is this one going to be 'Cat Shit One?'" And that was the origin of the name "Cat Shit One."

I think it was a good idea to (force them to) change the contents of the story as drastically as I did. If you're not into the story, it doesn't matter what you draw—it's just not fun. It's anything but. If someone says to me, "Whoa, what happened to Dog Shit One?!" all I can say is "Sorry," and leave it at that. We live in a world where people can get away with having millions of dollars in bad debts, so I'll ask that you be kind enough to forgive the actions of a mere comic book artist.

APOCALYPSE MEOW ONE
Rough sketches, seen here for the first time.

Nowadays, I do the bulk of my work on computer. I started using a Macintosh 7500/100 three years ago, and I recently bought a G3DT266. For software, I've been using Photoshop and Painter ever since I saw *Denshi Rikkoku* ("Wired Nation") on NHK-TV. To be honest, neither the hardware nor the software is very user-friendly. I think it takes one to two years to get used to the hardware, and then about another two years to master the software. And of course, during this time, there are upgrades in both the software and the operating system.

Drawing by hand is quicker, less stressful, and free. But for those artists with little talent, a computer is a good tool because it makes revisions a lot easier. I went with a Macintosh because someone told me Macs are easier to use than PCs when it comes to computer graphics. I don't spend any time on the Internet, so I only use my computer for work—still, it's a real pain, what with all the freezing, error messages, constant upgrading, etc. If you're thinking about using a computer to draw, you're going to need some help from people who know a lot about computers and software. To be productive, you'll also need to have a good understanding of the relationship between resolution and file.

Computers have gotten a lot less expensive lately, so now may be a good time to get one. About ten years ago, following a recommendation from my assistant, I purchased an X68000 for about ¥3,600. For all that money, though, the software was very difficult to use and wasn't very practical. The X68000 became a game machine, and both I and my assistant got hooked on strategy games (resulting in a huge delay in our work schedule). Right now I'm really into survival gaming. I haven't been able to spend much time on it recently, though, so I'm feeling a bit frustrated. *AND* I don't have time to go to my favorite bar near the western entrance of Shinjuku Station. Next year I'd like to take a whole month off—but that may not be possible!

Survival games are good physical exercise, and they've helped me make many friends outside of my work. I highly recommend them, because they'll remind you of the war games you used to play as a kid. It's kill or be killed, and the 120% adrenaline rush will get you hooked. We usually play in Gotenba, so please join us, if you have time. We will welcome you.

Motofumi KOBAYASHI
September 1998